

Wabash Plain Dealer

THURSDAY
JANUARY 16, 2020

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Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.



Wabash Plain Dealer's new website now available

Check out our new website at www.wabashplaindealer.com and let us know what you think. Stories older than a few weeks are not yet available but will be soon. If you had an account on our previous site, you will need to create a new account. If you registered with the same email address we will be able to locate your previous subscription as well. Once registered, you can also verify your subscription. Please contact web support@wabashplaindealer.com with any questions. Thank you!

Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

Red Cross plans blood donation opportunity for Jan. 17

The Red Cross has planned a blood donation opportunity from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17 at Whites Residential and Family Service, 5233 S. 50 East.

VFW Wabash Post 286 plans fish fry

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 286 has planned a fish fry from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17 at 3678 W. Old Indiana 24. The menu features hand-battered fish, baked beans, coleslaw and hush puppies. The cost of all-you-can-eat dine-in is \$8. Carry-out is available. For more information, call 260-563-2463.

Swayzee Lions Club plans euchre event

The Swayzee Lions Club has planned a euchre event for Saturday, Jan. 18 at Swayzee United Methodist Church, 306 S. Washington St., Swayzee. The entry fee is \$12.50. Registration will last from noon to 12:45 p.m. Play begins at 1 p.m. There will be cash prizes for Most Loners, Highest Score,

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First week of candidate filing concludes

Filing will remain open until noon Friday, Feb. 7

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

As the first week of filing for the May Primary Election comes to a close there are now nearly two dozen candidates who have filed for various local, state and federal races.

Candidates for federal or state office will file with the Secretary of State or Indiana Election Division.

Local candidates will file with the county election board. Filing will remain open until noon Friday, Feb. 7.

A candidate seeking nomination by a major political party may file, as well as independent or minor party candidates and state convention delegates.

Candidates for president or governor may begin fil-

ing petitions of nomination with county voter registration offices for verification of petition signatures.

The Secretary of State's Office is located in Room 201 of the Indiana Statehouse, 200 W. Washington St., Indianapolis. The Election Division is located in Room E-204 of the Indiana Government Center, 302 W. Washington St., Indianapo-

lis. Offices are open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, visit <https://www.in.gov/sos/elections/>.

State and congressional representatives

According to the Secretary of State's Office, Ellen Marks, Democrat, filed Jan. 13 for U.S. Representative for the Second District seat

See CANDIDATES / Page A6

Project to improve Wabash River water quality launched

Final public meeting set for 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10

STAFF REPORT

Do you live, work, farm or play in the Wabash River drainage? The project focused on assessing, protecting and improving water quality; engaging individuals interested in the Wabash River drainage; and developing a step-wise plan for the Wabash River drainage will host its final public meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10 at the Honeywell Room at the Honeywell Center, according to a press release.

The project assessed water quality in twelve tributaries to the Wabash River in Wabash and Miami counties, developed an engagement and outreach program, and developed a plan to protect and improve water quality within this portion of the Wabash River Drainage and the Treaty Creek-Wabash River Watershed.

The \$215,000 grant lays the foundation for future, voluntary, on-the-ground conservation implementation efforts.

"The Treaty Creek-Wabash River Project is structured to allow community input on what they want to see happen in terms of regional planning to improve water quality within the Wabash River Drainage. These efforts position the Wabash River Defenders, Miami and Wabash County soil and water conservation districts, City of Wabash, and other partners to implement on-the-ground conservation practices in the future," stated Sara Peel, project coordinator.

Peel stated more than 20 community agencies and organizations supported this effort. These groups include: The Community Foundation of Wabash County, Grow Wabash County, city of Wabash Utilities, Visit Wabash County, Indiana American Water, Miami County Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wabash County Surveyors office, Wabash

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NOISEMAKER: Amy Kissel, Charley Creek Gardens staff member, stands in front of the group of children and adults and showed how they would be constructing their noisemakers.

Celebrating the 'Year of the Rat'

This year, Chinese New Year begins Saturday, Jan. 25

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

The Annual Winter Break Bash, hosted by the Honeywell Foundation, took place Thursday, Jan. 2 and Friday, Jan. 3 at various Honeywell Foundation venues including the Honeywell Center and Charley Creek Gardens, according to Courtney Harvey, development communications manager.

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, children made a craft dragon Jan. 2 and a Chinese noisemaker Jan. 3.

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year 2020 begins Saturday, Jan. 25. It marks the beginning of the Chinese Spring Festival and

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CRAFTS: To celebrate the Chinese New Year, children made a craft dragon Jan. 2 and a Chinese noisemaker Jan. 3.

Kaopuiki joins Manchester as vice president for enrollment, marketing

He began his new role Tuesday, Jan. 7

BY ANNE GREGORY

Manchester University has named Ryon Kaopuiki vice president for enrollment and marketing.

"This is clearly a community that cares deeply about the success of their students and I admire the important strategic decisions being made with an eye toward the future. My interest in joining the team at Manchester University grew the more I interacted and engaged with staff and faculty," he said. "I am humbled to be joining the team and excited about the opportunity to contribute to

the legacy of Manchester University."

Kaopuiki brings more than 20 years of experience in admissions and enrollment management, most recently as vice president for enrollment and marketing at Anderson University in Anderson, Ind. He began Jan. 7.

A graduate of Western Oregon University, Kaopuiki also worked for Concordia University, DeVry University and American Intercontinental University in Oregon; Salem

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Two Southwood students selected for all-state choir

Performance scheduled for Saturday in Fort Wayne

STAFF REPORT

Two Southwood High School students were selected to sing in the Indiana All-State Honor Choir at the Indiana Music Educators Convention in Fort Wayne, according to a press release.

The High School All-State Honor Choir will perform at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan 18 at the Embassy Theatre, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne. Admission is free and open to the public.

The guest choral conductor for the Indiana High



PROVIDED PHOTO

CHOIR: From left, Katelyn Ranck and Daisy Sparks were selected to sing in the Indiana All-State Honor Choir at the Indiana Music Educators Convention in Fort Wayne.

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PHOTO PROVIDED

HONOR: The High School All-State Honor Choir will perform at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan 18 at the Embassy Theatre, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne. Admission is free and open to the public.

CHOIR

Continued from A1

School All-State Honor Choir is Sandra Snow of Michigan State University. “As a conductor, teacher and scholar, Sandra Snow’s work spans a wide variety of ages, abilities and music,” stated the release. “She works with undergraduate and graduate students in areas of conducting, choral pedagogy and choral singing. She is the recipient of the MSU Teacher-Scholar Award. She conducts the MSU Women’s Chamber Ensemble which has been featured at the American Choral Directors Association conferences several times. She travels extensively conducting All-State Honor Choirs and holding residencies with singers of all ages, including Canada, Prague, Salzburg and Vienna. She has previously served on the faculties of University of Michigan and

Northern Illinois University.” Southwood High School will be represented by Daisy Sparks and Katelyn Ranck. Indiana’s Area 4A, which includes Kosciusko, Wabash, Huntington, Witley, Wells and Adams counties is allowed a quota of 12 singers to be selected. Approximately 250 students are chosen from the state of Indiana through an audition process of sight-singing and performing a prepared song. This choir will rehearse all day on Friday, Jan. 17 before performing in concert Saturday, Jan. 18. Katelyn Ranck, a freshman, is the daughter of Brian and Sarah Ranck. This is her first year to audition and be selected for the high school All-State Honor Choir. In junior high, she earned gold medals at the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) contests for a vocal solo and vocal ensembles. She plans

to take a vocal solo, piano solo and an ensemble to contest this year. She sings in the church choir and takes piano lessons. Daisy Sparks, a senior, is the daughter of James and Maureen Sparks. This is her second year in the All-State honor choir. She has consistently been a member of Southwood High School choirs. She has also been selected for the Wabash County Honor Choir for three years in high school, participated in Foundation for Art & Music in Education (FAME) festivals and Summer Theater, and takes dance lessons. She has earned gold medals at the ISSMA vocal solo and ensemble district and state contests with vocal ensembles and in district contest with piano solos. She has also provided guitar and vocal music for special occasions. Susan Keefer is their choral director at Southwood Jr-Sr High School.

MANCHESTER

Continued from A1

International University in Carmel; and Harrison College in Indianapolis. In those roles, he established a record of enrollment growth and innovative leadership. “Ryon stood out in a strong pool of applicants because of his experience across traditional, adult and online markets,” said President Dave McFadden. “He said he was drawn to our mission, and I was drawn to his strategic approach to recruiting.” Manchester is working to expand its reach to nontraditional students and add more online offerings. It is also adding and redesigning programs. A data science major will start this fall, for example, and faculty are working to revamp the Spanish, sociology and mathematics majors with added emphasis on practical applications. The University, with campuses in North Manchester and Fort Wayne, is also seeking accreditation for a bachelor’s degree in nursing as well as a master’s degree in nutrition and nutrigenomics. This fall it launched a 3+1 Master of Accountancy, which allows a student to earn both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in four years. Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.



PHOTO PROVIDED

NEW ROLE: Manchester University has named Ryon Kapuiki vice president for enrollment and marketing.

THE ROXY
MOVIE THEATER

Roxy 5 Showtimes for Friday, January 10 - Thursday, January 16
All showtimes have Closed Captioning available.

Like A Boss (R)
Fri: 6:50, 9:30
Sat: 1:00, 3:55, 6:50, 9:30
Sun: 1:00, 3:55, 6:50 Mon-Thurs: 6:50

Star Wars: Episode IX - The Rise of Skywalker (PG13)
Fri: 6:20, 9:10
Sat: 12:40, 3:45, 6:20, 9:10
Sun: 12:40, 3:45, 6:20 Mon-Thurs: 6:20

Underwater (PG13)
Fri: 7:15, 9:55
Sat: 1:15, 4:05, 7:15, 9:55
Sun: 1:15, 4:05, 7:15 Mon-Thurs: 7:15

Jumanji: The Next Level in 2D (PG13)
Fri: 7:00, 10:05
Sat: 1:25, 4:15, 7:00, 10:05
Sun: 1:25, 4:15, 7:00 Mon-Thurs: 7:00

Little Women (PG)
Fri: 6:40, 9:40
Sat: 12:50, 3:45, 6:40, 9:40
Sun: 12:50, 3:45, 6:40 Mon-Thurs: 6:40

For more information please call
765-460-5322
or visit us online at www.roxyperu.com
Located at 100 Roxy Lane, North edge of Peru

5-Day Weather Summary

Thursday
Mostly Sunny
29 / 19

Friday
Scattered Snow
33 / 23

Saturday
Rain Likely
42 / 9

Sunday
Mostly Cloudy
15 / 5

Monday
Mostly Cloudy
21 / 12

Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 5:45 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 8:09 a.m.

Last
1/17

New
1/24

First
2/1

Full
2/9

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 29°, humidity of 54%. West northwest wind 8 to 16 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 19°. East southeast wind 3 to 8 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 12°.

Husband’s TV choices bother reader

DEAR HARRIETTE: My husband and I have very different tastes in television programs. I like romance and drama. He watches shows about UFOs. It makes my skin crawl when he turns on shows about extraterrestrials and then lectures me about his beliefs – backed up by these programs – that aliens are living among us. I don’t believe it, but I also know that I can’t do anything about it, even if it is true. How can I get him to watch some of my shows? I am tired of being forced to endure the shows he likes. It makes me really angry, and that’s no good for our relationship. – No More Aliens

Harriette Cole
Sense & Sensitivity

a failure. I did very well in school, have almost no college debt and recently got a job, but it’s still not enough. What should I do? – No Credit

DEAR NO CREDIT: It is true that you generally need to have established credit in order to be able to do many things, including renting or buying an apartment – unless you can pay cash upfront for an extended period of time. Take your parents up on their offer for you to live with them while you build your credit. Be disciplined about using your new credit card. You must use it, though. Each month, make some charges on your card, preferably using less than 30 percent of the total amount of credit. Always pay your bill on

time. You can pay the total balance in full each month, either on time or early, or you can pay a portion of the bill on time. Either way will help build good credit. If you pay it off in full each month, your credit score will rise higher and you will not incur interest charges. Sign up for a credit monitoring app, like Credit Karma, so that you can immediately access your credit score. A year’s worth of good credit plus some dollars in the bank should make you ready to get your own place.

Harriette Cole is a stylist and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

Wabash Plain Dealer

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Classified: classifieds@wabashplaindealer.com
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Retail: cbrown@wabashplaindealer.com

Newsroom

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Walk-in hours are from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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Call: 260-563-2131
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(Please call in advance of your visit.)

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GRANDSTAFF HENTGEN

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Roann Chapel • 765-833-5591
Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash • 260-563-0421
www.grandstaff-hentgen.com

Doris Verna Holmes

April 16, 1928 - Jan. 12, 2020

Doris Verna Holmes, 91, of Wabash, Indiana, went to be with her Lord on 7:30 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020 at her home. She was born April 16, 1928 in South Whitley, Indiana to Harry and Mary (Meyer) Baublet.

Doris married Gerald Holmes in Wabash on April 16, 1946; he died July 8, 1998. She was a cook for Gobles Public Schools and also co-owned, along with her husband, Holmes Antiques, both in Gobles, Michigan. She was a member of the First Church of God in Wabash, where she also taught Sunday School. She was a former member of the Wabash County Hospital Auxiliary. Doris volunteered at Helping Hands, Meals on Wheels, and also worked the voting polls. She was active at the Winchester Senior Center. Doris enjoyed playing cards and sewing.

She is survived by four children, Ruth Ann (Mike) Drake of Atwood, Illinois, Gary (Cathy) Holmes of Greenfield, Indiana, Rhonda (David) Beare of Kendallville, Indiana, and Guy (Diane) Holmes of Wabash, 11 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. She



was also preceded in death by her parents, five brothers, two sisters, and one grandson.

Friends may call 4-6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020 at the First Church of God, 525 N. Miami St., Wabash, with Pastor Robb Rensberger officiating, with visitation one hour prior. Burial will be in Falls Cemetery, Wabash.

Preferred memorial is First Church of God.

The memorial guest book for Doris may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

WATER

Continued from A1

County Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wabash County Purdue Extension, Wabash County Solid Waste Management District, Wabash County Area Plan Commission, Wabash County United Fund and Wabash County Emergency Management.

The meeting will detail the results of water quality

monitoring efforts, review stakeholder concerns, identify practices to be targeted during future implementation projects and allow community members to provide feedback on the future of the project.

If you are interested in participating in this project, volunteering to monitor water quality or would like to learn more about upcoming meetings and events, email Peel at wabashriverdefenders@gmail.com or Jen Rankin at jrankin@slashthetrash.com.

PULSE

Continued from A1

Second Highest Score, 50-50 Drawing and two entry fee drawings. Soft drinks, hot dogs, chips, popcorn and candy will be available for a donation. All proceeds support the Lions Club Scholarship Fund. For more information, call Joe Hamilton at 765-922-7280 or Terry Shaw at 765-667-4848.

Honeywell Singers Show Choir officially launches

Registration for Honeywell Singers is open through Monday, Jan. 27. A Meet the Director Reception will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19 in the Nixon Room at the Honeywell Center. For more information, email Teresa Galley at tgalley@honeywellfoundation.org or call 260-274-1412.

Red Cross plans blood donation opportunity for Jan. 21

The Red Cross has planned a blood donation opportunity from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21 at First United Methodist Church, 110 N. Cass St.

Paradise Spring to hold annual meeting, soup supper

Paradise Spring will hold its annual meeting and soup supper carry-in at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 in the multi-purpose room of

the Wabash County Historical Museum, 36 E. Market St. The meal is free but reservations are appreciated and should be made by Monday, Jan. 20. For more information, call 260-571-2879.

Red Cross plans blood donation opportunity for Jan. 22

The Red Cross has planned a blood donation opportunity from 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 at Richvalley Community Center, 56 W. Mill St.

Experience the 'Silence of a Winter's Night'

Enjoy the "Silence of a Winter's Night" from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 at Salamonie Lake's Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. The cost is \$10 per person, and space is limited. Advance registration is required by calling 260-468-2127.

Manchester University plans Spring Convocation

The Spring Convocation is at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, the first day of classes, in Cordier Auditorium on the North Manchester campus. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Wabash Tri Kappa to sponsor 14th Annual Winter Gala

The gala will take place

Saturday, Feb. 1, at Heartland REMC, 250 Wedcor Ave. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person and must be purchased by Tuesday, Jan. 28. Tickets may be purchased from Tri Kappa Members or at the following locations: Wabash City Hall, 202 S. Wabash St.; Friermood Tire & Alignment, 1699 Stitt St.; and the dental office of Dr. Bing M. Fowler DDS, 1911 S. Wabash St. For more information, call Beth Miller at 260-563-1128.

February Salamonie Senior Luncheon set

The monthly Salamonie Senior Luncheon will be held at noon on Monday, Feb. 3, at the Salamonie Lake Interpretive Center, at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Anyone age 50 or older is welcome to attend. Upper Wabash Interpretive Services interpretive naturalist Lynnanne Fager will share her personal experiences with Indiana bald eagles. The program begins with a carry-in meal at noon. Chicken and noodles and mashed potatoes will be provided. Guests should bring a side dish to share, a beverage and their own table service. A \$1 donation will be accepted. Reservations may be made by calling 260-468-2127.

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ to host prom for people with special needs

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ will host Night to Shine 2020 from 6 to

people have this word hung on their doors or over their doors during the Chinese New Year.

Making noisemakers

Set up Friday, Jan. 3 on various tables at Charley Creek Gardens were 120 paper plates, various paint colors, bowls for paint, brushes, staplers and staples, beans, 60 popsicle sticks, pony beads, hole punches, 60 rat pictures, 60 "fu" pictures, crayons, 120 6-inch thin ribbons or yarn strips and 20 each of scissors and glue.

Amy Kissel, Charley Creek Gardens staff member, stood in front of the group of children and adults and showed how they would be constructing their noisemakers.

"Come up and pick two paper plates. This will be the

9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7 at Northfield High School, 154 W. 200 North. For additional information, visit www.bachelorcreek.com.

Honeywell Foundation's annual art competition open

The Honeywell Foundation's Clark Gallery will be hosting its annual 92 County Art Show through Wednesday, Feb. 19. A public reception for this event will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020. For more information, contact Michele Hughes at mhughes@HoneywellFoundation.org or call the Honeywell Center Box Office at 260-563-1102.

Low Impact Fitness classes scheduled

Fitness that is both fun and free led by Mary Jo McClelland at 9:45 a.m. every Monday and Thursday, and 3 p.m. Wednesdays at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. There is no fee or registration required.

Cancer care advocate available every Tuesday

A cancer care advocate is available from 1 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Winchester Senior Center, 239 Bond St. No appointment is needed. This service is supported by the Hope Foundation and provided by Cancer Services out of Fort Wayne.

Yoga classes scheduled on Tuesdays

Yoga for those who are

punches, 60 rat pictures, 60 "fu" pictures, crayons, 120 6-inch thin ribbons or yarn strips and 20 each of scissors and glue.

Amy Kissel, Charley Creek Gardens staff member, stood in front of the group of children and adults and showed how they would be constructing their noisemakers.

"Come up and pick two paper plates. This will be the

intermediate to experienced levels have been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. The cost is \$10, and discount passes are available.

DivorceCare to meet every Tuesday

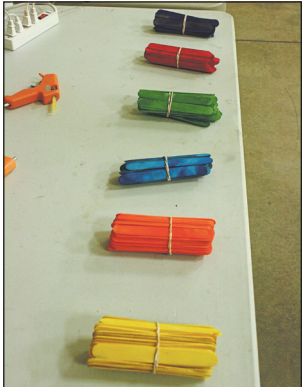
DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to a press release. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in Room 112 in the Wabash Friends Church, 3563 South State Road 13. Group leader and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St. on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658 or group leader Janet Quillen at 260-571-5235; email office@wabashfriends.org; or visit www.divorcecare.org.

'Death by Chocolate' tickets on sale

The Wabash Area Community Theater's winter comedy "Death by Chocolate" will open at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7; and doors will open at noon and dinner is at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 8 at the Charley Creek Inn. Tickets are on sale now at the Charley Creek Inn reception desk. For more information, call Bruce Rovelstad at 260-



CHARACTER: Fu means happiness and good luck. Many Chinese people have this word hung on their doors or over their doors during the Chinese New Year.



SUPPLIES: Set up Friday, Jan. 3 on various tables at Charley Creek Gardens were 120 paper plates, various paint colors, bowls for paint, brushes, staplers and staples, beans, 60 popsicle sticks, pony beads, hole punches, 60 rat pictures, 60 "fu" pictures, crayons, 120 6-inch thin ribbons or yarn strips and 20 each of scissors and glue.

basis for your noisemaker. We have some string," she said. "This is the part where parents or adults may want to help a little bit. Just make sure that the string is tied on so that the length is short enough that it actually hits the noisemaker ... so that it makes a noise."

330-0543 or Bev Vanderpool at 765-661-8206.

Komets game to celebrate Wabash County March 13

Wabash County will be the MVP during the third annual Wabash County Night at the Fort Wayne Komets game at 8:05 p.m. Friday, March 13 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave., Fort Wayne. While supplies last, tickets can be bought for \$15 per ticket at <https://groupmatics.events/event/Wabashcommunity3> or by emailing Mitch Meinholz at mitch@komets.com or by calling 260-482-6812.

Wabash Kiwanis Club's Pancake Day returns in March

The Wabash Kiwanis Club will once again host its annual Pancake Day, which is the local service organization's largest annual fundraiser. The event will take place from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at the Bruce Inghram building at the Wabash County Fairgrounds, located just off of Gillen Avenue. Tickets will be \$8 at the door and \$7 in advance for those ages 13 years and older, and \$5 at the door and \$4 in advance for children ages 6 to 12 years. Admission for the event will be free for children 5 years and younger.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

speak up

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
http://coats.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
http://braun.senate.gov/

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski R-District 2
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Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

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h18@in.gov

letters guidelines

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 123 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplainealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

inspiration corner

Daily scripture

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Galatians 5:6

Use U.S.-Iran pause to pursue diplomacy

It is indeed a "good thing for all parties concerned and a good thing for the world," as President Donald Trump said Wednesday, that "Iran appears to be standing down."

Now it's time for Trump to stand up for a coherent Mideast strategy that goes beyond inconsistent tactics that alternately suggest impending withdrawal and deepening involvement. While there are occasional successes, the current approach alienates allies and emboldens adversaries.

Specifically, the administration must articulate a clearer objective regarding Iran. It shouldn't be regime change, as some hawks hope, but should focus instead on preventing proliferation. A nuclear-armed Iran would not only be an existential threat to some countries but also trigger a Mideast deployment dash.

The Iran nuclear deal was designed to preclude that. But Trump scrapped that pact (more formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA) and embarked on a "maximum pressure" campaign that has backfired. In the wake of the killing of Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Tehran announced that it would no longer abide by the deal's nuclear-enrichment limits. And in response to the U.S. pulling out of the deal and ratcheting up sanctions, the theocracy has responded with a maximum-pressure campaign of its own that has deeply destabilized the region.

The JCPOA was imperfect – as any agreement between world powers and Iran would be. "By definition a deal is a compromise, and so people who are criticizing the deal because it didn't meet their ideal objectives would have to say that about any deal," Robert Malley told an editorial writer. Malley, who was a special assistant to former President Barack Obama on Iran and is now president of the International Crisis Group, added that "the only kind of deal that would satisfy would be a surrender by one side, and that was not what

negotiations usually produce."

Iran, of course, did not unilaterally surrender. And European allies who were signatories to the agreement are unlikely to give up on the pact, despite reports that the administration will ask them to do so. They know that such a move would drive Tehran even deeper toward Moscow and Beijing, two other signatories who, like all parties to the pact, acknowledge that Iran was technically in compliance until after the U.S. pullout.

Whether the deal is salvageable is unknown. If re-elected, Trump is unlikely to try. And even if a Democrat takes the oath of office in January 2021, geopolitical fluidity would likely require a renegotiation. Either way, diplomacy is essential. There clearly is no will and little wallet for yet another major Mideast war for regime change.

Indeed, if Iran is going to change, it will happen from within. Before the U.S. drone strike, brave Iranians took to Tehran's streets to demand reform. But that was undercut by the rally-around-the-theocracy momentum that seized the nation after the Soleimani killing.

And in the streets of Baghdad and beyond, there was also a growing anti-Iran sentiment that led to mass demonstrations in Iraq.

Much of the anti-Iran sentiment that had led to mass demonstrations in Iraq also froze after the drone strike on Iraqi soil made the U.S., not Iran, the issue among Iraqi citizens and lawmakers, who passed a nonbinding parliamentary resolution calling for the withdrawal of U.S. forces.

A "huge relationship repair" with Baghdad is due, William Wechsler, director of the Middle East Programs at the Atlantic Council, told an editorial writer. "You want to go back to the situation where Iran was the center of ire, both on the street and in political chambers, and where the United States is the defender of Iraqi sovereignty."

It's understandable that many weary Americans want to leave the

region. But that would leave more malevolent regional forces, let alone Russia and China, to fill the void. And in fact, one of the biggest challenges in the Mideast, Wechsler said, is overcoming perceptions not of deeper U.S. involvement but "the overwhelming perception of an imminent withdrawal."

That perception invites miscalculation by state and nonstate actors alike, which would inevitably require U.S. re-involvement, just as the rise of al-Qaida and ISIS did. "I'd rather have a minor presence over a long period of time than a major presence for a short period of time," Wechsler said.

A more coherent strategy will require sitting down with – and not talking down to – U.S. allies. Trump's ongoing disparagement of NATO is damaging, and he'll approach any kind of diplomatic engagement with low global equity, according to a new Pew Research Center poll across 32 countries. Not surprisingly, 64 percent or respondents said they do not have confidence in America's commander-in-chief to "do the right thing in world affairs," while only 29 percent said they did. The numbers are even worse among Western Europeans, with nearly 3 in 4 lacking confidence.

For its part, despite the throngs mourning Soleimani, the Iranian government is deeply unpopular among many in the country. And its leaders are viewed as overbearing in some Shiite-majority countries such as Iraq, a direct threat to many Sunni-majority nations and a pariah among many countries worldwide. And Tehran's terrible perception will only worsen with Iran's admission that it shot down a Ukrainian airliner with 176 civilians on board, mistaking it for an enemy target.

Both Iran and the U.S. will have challenges building coalitions. Yet diplomacy must somehow proceed, lest the next clash spiral out of control.

This editorial was first published in the Star Tribune.

letters to the editor

Cripple Iran's strategic weapons program

In a New Hampshire Union Leader 2017 op-ed, Dr. Jessica Tuchman Mathews described why the Trump administration should continue the Iranian nuclear agreement. She delved into the value of the agreement and how the U.S. and the world were relatively safe from a nuclear attack by Iran for 15 years if the agreement remained in force. This was terrible thinking.

Dr. Mathews and other proponents of the agreement believed the international surveillance program designed to monitor Iran's compliance with the agreement would ensure Iran could not develop its nuclear arms program. This was a theoretical fantasy. Iran hides its nuclear weapons development activities from international surveillance systems, and Iran continues to expand its nuclear arsenal. Thankfully, President Trump exited the agreement.

Iran is a primary sponsor of radical Islamic terrorism. It wants to spread its virulent anti-Western Islamic Fascism throughout the Middle East, and Iran and its proxies are threatening and attacking our military forces in the region.

President Trump should continue sanctions against Iran to cripple its strategic weapons programs, and we need more defensive systems and offensive firepower in the Middle East to deter Iran from attacking U.S. forces and partners and interests in the region.

– Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry,
New Hampshire

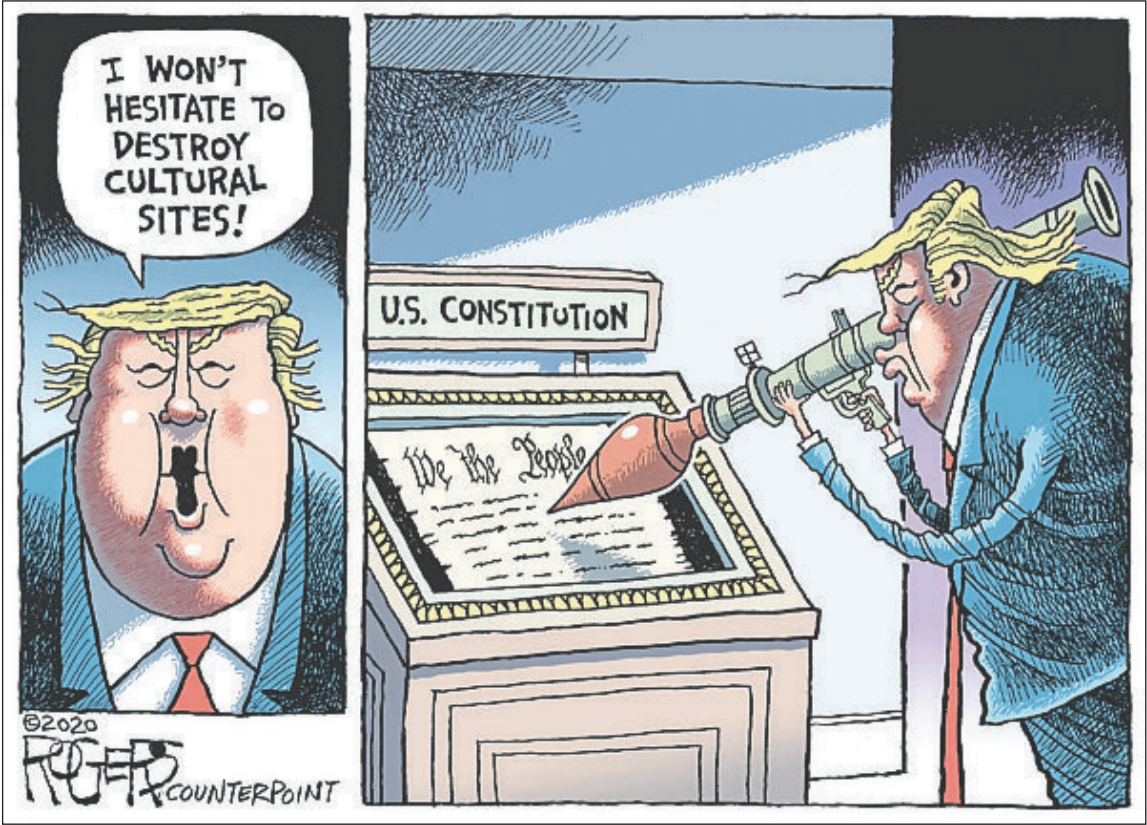
When will Americans demand Trump be removed from office?

Trump has been impeached by the House of Representatives and will go to a Senate trial. All witnesses agreed that Trump tried to bribe the president of Ukraine to announce an investigation into Joe Biden's son. Republicans claim all of the evidence is second-hand and hearsay, but Trump has forbidden several people who have first-hand knowledge from testifying. This action hints strongly that Trump is not innocent. The second Article of Impeachment is Obstructing Congress, and now to prevent us from knowing the truth he is again obstructing Congress.

Before the Senate impeachment trial, Senators will take an oath to be impartial jurors. Several Republican senators have already pronounced Trump not guilty, even before the trial has begun. Why aren't those senators prohibited from being jurors – or facing impeachment themselves?

I surely don't understand how people can still support Trump despite his cheating on his wives, paying off a porn star, giving government jobs to family, degrading comments towards women, the disabled, veterans, and other minorities, constant lying, childish Twitter vendettas, appointing unqualified people to head government agencies and nominating unqualified people to judicial positions, broken promises (better health care, cutting taxes, lower drug prices, increase wages, stop factories from moving overseas, eliminating the national debt), pushing policies to hurt poor and middle-class Americans while further enriching the wealthy and big corporations, and now leading us towards war. When will Americans wake up and demand that he be removed from office?

– Jeff Hunn
North Manchester



We're awash in obscure federal regulations

Forget for a moment, if you can, what you think about the dangers of tobacco and the wisdom or folly of government trying to regulate its use. Consider, instead, how you think the laws dictating your conduct should be enacted.

Three examples to ponder: The Fort Wayne City Council enacted two ordinances regulating public smoking, one in the late 1990s and a much more restrictive one in 2007. In both cases, there were numerous public hearings at which citizens from all sides of the issue made impassioned pleas, everyone from health advocates talking about the dangers of secondhand smoke to restaurant owners arguing the right to set the rules governing their private property.

The General Assembly passed the Indiana Smoke Free Air Law in 2012, after a years-long campaign during which mounting pressure for change gradually eroded a strong legislative commitment to the status quo. In the five years prior to the law, numerous study committees debated expert testimony from scores of witnesses and studies citing a dizzying array of statistics.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration officially changed the federal minimum age to buy all tobacco products from 18 to 21 on Dec. 20, 2019, the same day President Donald Trump signed a \$1.4 trillion spending package that included approval for the change.

What the first two examples have in common that the third does not share is that by the time the laws went into effect, those affected by them had been

Leo Morris



given every opportunity to know what the changes were, whether they agreed with them or not. They knew what was allowed and not allowed, and what the penalties were for not complying. After the FDA's change, however, there was widespread confusion nationwide. The bill signed by Trump gave the FDA six months to change its policies and 90 days after the change to implement it. But it announced the change immediately, causing some retailers to think they had to comply right away and others to think they still had time, though none knew how much.

To be fair, we should probably be grateful that at least there was specific legislative authorization for the change, even if it was inserted in a massive budget bill at the last minute with no discussion.

The FDA is one of many federal agencies benefiting from Congress' abdication of authority in giving them the power to set and adjudicated their own rules.

How many such agencies there are is not exactly known, but it was indicated in a 2015 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing that "there are over 430 departments, agencies, and sub-agencies in the federal government."

They employ, according to public policy analyst Chuck DeVore, "220,000 federal regulators working with a regulatory budget of about \$63 billion who

write and enforce 185,000 pages of rules that cost the economy in the neighborhood of \$1.9 trillion annually."

From 1960 through 2017, the Federal Register of rules we must live by grew from 22,000 pages to 185,000: "As the United States was created, there were some half-dozen federal laws such as treason and counterfeiting that could send you to prison.

Now, violate any one of the estimated 300,000 rules – even if you're completely unaware of the rule – and you may be sent to the federal slammer.

Perhaps your feelings about tobacco are too strong for you to separate what is done from how it is done. But substitute any activity some faceless functionary could define as a danger to you, someone else or any part of the organic or inorganic landscape deemed too fragile to survive without bureaucratic intervention. Drinking. Riding a bicycle or operating a crane. Buying flowers on the Internet or draining a pond on your farm. Walking one the sidewalk while chewing gum.

If you're breaking some rule and doing it wrong, wouldn't you like to know about it ahead of time instead of when you're punished for it?

"Ignorance of the law" might still not be an excuse. But we should not accept it being the government's clear intention.

Leo Morris, columnist for The Indiana Policy Review, is winner of the Hoosier Press Association's award for Best Editorial Writer. Morris, as opinion editor of the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, was named a finalist in editorial writing by the Pulitzer Prize committee. Contact him at leoedits@yahoo.com.

Lentil salad

BY SONJA GOEDKOOP
American Institute for Cancer Research

Lentils make a hearty alternative to meat in veggie burgers, soups and salads like this one. Legumes like lentils are rich in fiber, protein, iron and folate. Plus they're a low-calorie option if your resolution this year is to watch your weight. This recipe can be ready in less than 30 minutes with relatively no prep so you can eat well even on a busy weeknight.

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes

Ingredients:
2 cups dried green or brown lentils
1 medium red onion, diced
1/4 cup capers (diced if large)
2 cups fresh arugula
1 medium cucumber, chopped
1/2 cup chopped walnuts
1/4 cup feta cheese

Vinaigrette:
1/3 cup olive oil
1/4 cup lemon juice
1 Tbsp maple syrup
1 Tbsp dijon mustard
1 tsp salt
2 tsp pepper
1 tsp ground cumin
1/2 tsp turmeric
1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp cayenne pepper

Makes 12 servings (about 1/2 cup per serving).
Per Serving: 220 calories, 11 g fat, 23 g carbohydrate, 11 g protein, 5 g dietary fiber, 370 mg sodium.

Directions



PROVIDED PHOTO

LENTILS: Legumes like lentils are rich in fiber, protein, iron and folate.

Rinse lentils and drain. Place in a pot and cover with about 3-4 inches of water, bring to a boil and reduce to simmer. Cook for 15-20 minutes (lentils should still be slightly al dente).

While the lentils are cooking, make the vinaigrette by whisking all ingredients together (or shaking in a jar with a

tight-fitting lid). When the lentils are cooked, remove from heat, drain and rinse under cold

running water to stop the cooking process. Add lentils to a large bowl and toss with the vin-

aigrette. Mix in the onion and capers. Add arugula, cucumber, walnuts and feta just

before serving.

Sonja Goedkoop, MSPH, RD, is the lead registered dietitian at Zesty, Inc. She is passionate about helping others improve their health through diet and physical activity and believes eating nutritious food should be easy and taste great. You can follow her on Twitter @SonjaGoedkoopRD.

The cold season's answer to lettuce



PROVIDED PHOTO BY LYNDA BALSLEV FOR TASTEFOOD

BITTER: Chicory leaves are hardy and often bitter, so it's best to lean into their robust qualities, rather than pretend they are a substitute for mild-mannered lettuce.

BY LYNDA BALSLEV

When the weather is frigid, and the garden has hunkered down for the winter, it's time to turn to chicories. These leafy vegetables are our cold-season friends, packed with vitamins and nutrients, and winter's replacement for sweet summer greens. While chicories are also referred to as "greens," whites, reds and purples may be a more accurate description. This broad group of leafy "greens" includes endive, escarole, frisee, Treviso and radicchio.

Chicory leaves are hardy and often bitter, so it's best to lean into their robust qualities, rather than pretend they are a substitute for mild-mannered lettuce. Team them up with equally strong flavors: sweet and sharp dressings, astringent citrus, smoky bacon, fruit and nuts. And thanks to their sturdiness, you can also braise them, which can be an appealing way to get your veggies in the dead of winter. Not only will the cooking process tame their bitterness, it will coax out their flavors and natural sugars and enhance their sweetness.

Balsamic Braised Chicories
Active Time: 30 minutes
Total Time: 30 minutes

Yield: Serves: 4 to 6
1 1/2 pounds chicories, such as endive, radicchio, escarole
1/4 cup chicken (or vegetable) stock
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1 teaspoon brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 to 3 thyme sprigs, plus extra for garnish

Trim the bases of the chicories. Halve the endive lengthwise and cut the radicchio and escarole into wedges.

Whisk the chicken stock, vinegar, lemon juice, sugar and salt in a small bowl.

Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Arrange the chicories cut-side down in the skillet and cook until they begin to soften and brown, about 5 minutes, turning once.

Add the chicken stock mixture and scatter the thyme sprigs over the chicories. Bring to a boil and then reduce the heat to medium-low. Cover the skillet and simmer until the chicories are tender, 6 to 8 minutes.

Remove the lid, increase the heat to medium-high and cook until the liquid is reduced and the chicories are slightly caramelized. Season with additional salt to taste and serve garnished with fresh thyme.

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FAA investigating jet fuel-dumping on schoolkids

BY STEFANIE DAZIO
Associated Press

CUDAHY, Calif. — Federal authorities will investigate why an airliner with engine trouble dumped jet fuel over a densely populated area of Southern California while making an emergency return to the airport, dousing dozens of schoolchildren in a smelly vapor.

Delta Air Lines Flight 89 to Shanghai, with 181 passengers and crew on board, turned back to Los Angeles International Airport only minutes after taking off Tuesday.

The pilot reported a compressor stall in the right engine — damage to a jet turbine that can occur through malfunction or when a foreign object such as a bird hits an engine. The damage can reduce engine thrust or, in worst cases, lead to a fire. Planes can take off weighted down for their journey, but if they must land early

because of an emergency, it can be necessary to dump fuel so that the aircraft is lighter to avoid damage.

Air traffic control asked the aircrew if they wanted to return to LAX immediately or remain over the ocean “to hold and burn fuel,” according to a recording of the radio communications.

“We’re going to go ahead,” the pilot or co-pilot responds. “We’ve got it back under control. ... We’re not critical.”

“OK, so you don’t need to hold or dump fuel or anything like that?” the controller asks.

“Ah, negative,” the pilot responds.

But the plane did later dump fuel, possibly while preparing to make a final turn before descending.

The fuel sprayed out of the plane in two lines and descended at midday in the city of Cudahy and nearby parts of Los Angeles Coun-

ty, about 13 miles east of the airport. It fell on five elementary schools, officials said.

The fuel, described by fire officials as a vapor, caused minor skin and lung irritation to 56 children and adults but nobody was taken to the hospital and the only decontamination required was soap and water, officials said.

Diego Martinez, a sixth-grader at Park Avenue Elementary in Cudahy, said he and his classmates were outside for physical education class when they saw the airplane flying low overhead.

“It was very close,” he said.

Shortly afterward, the air filled with the pungent odor of fuel.

“It was very strong, the odor,” the 12-year-old said.

Diego wasn’t doused but some of his friends complained that their skin was itching.

Some teachers at Park Avenue had headaches from the smell, said Antonio Buenabad, area representative for the United Teachers Los Angeles union.

“They were anxious to get home and shower because the stench was very strong,” he said of the teachers.

Delta Air Lines said the aircraft landed safely after releasing fuel, “which was required as part of normal procedure to reach a safe landing weight.”

The internet was quickly clogged with people questioning the decision and suggesting that the pilot could have shut down the engine, retained the fuel and landed with one working engine at some risk of damage to the plane.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it is investigating.

“There are special fuel-dumping procedures for aircraft operating into and

out of any major U.S. airport,” the FAA said in a statement. “These procedures call for fuel to be dumped over designated unpopulated areas, typically at higher altitudes so the fuel atomizes and disperses before it reaches the ground.”

However, pilots can deviate from the rules in an emergency for safety reasons, said Doug Moss, a retired airline captain and owner of AeroPacific Consulting, LLC, an aviation consulting firm based in Reno, Nevada.

The pilot could have stayed over the ocean to dump his fuel but that could have taken a half-hour up to an hour, Moss said.

Moss said when there is a compressor stall, the crew can’t determine how much damage was done internally to the engine.

“The fan blades may have separated and cut into the fuel lines, leaving an un-

controllable fire as a future possibility,” Moss said.

“He’s flying an airplane with a damaged engine that may be on fire,” Moss said. “So he has to make the decision: Do I spend the time to dump fuel or do I put this thing on the ground as soon as I can? You’re not going to kill anyone by dumping fuel.”

“There’s no dereliction of duty. Everybody’s trying to do the best they can but it’s a fast-paced, dynamic ballgame and there’s not a lot of time to think ... lives are at stake,” Moss said. “He got it on the ground safely. Unfortunately, there was collateral damage. People got gas poured over them.”

Cornell said 31 children and adults were affected by the fuel dump at Park Avenue school and another 12 at 93rd Street Elementary school. The rest of those affected were at other schools.

2 women charged in man’s killing amid child custody dispute

PORTLAND (AP) — Two Indiana women who are softball coaches at an Ohio high school were charged Wednesday with murder in the fatal shooting of a man that allegedly arose from a child custody dispute.

Esther J. Stephen, 29, and Shelby N. Hiestand, 18, both from the eastern Indiana city of Portland, are charged in the killing of Shea Michael Briar, 31. The Portland man was pronounced dead Sunday after he was found along a Jay County road with a gunshot wound to the back of his head.

Stephen and Hiestand were being held Wednesday without bond at the

Jay County Jail, with initial hearings scheduled for Thursday. It wasn’t clear whether either woman has an attorney who could speak on their behalf.

According to a probable cause affidavit, Stephen and Hiestand admitted conspiring to kill Briar, who shared a child with Stephen. Stephen was allegedly angry that Briar had initiated court proceedings to establish parenting time rights for that child and was seeking to change the youngster’s last name.

Stephen and Briar were scheduled for a Feb. 5 court hearing on the custody dispute, The (Portland) Com-

mercial Review reported.

Authorities allege that Stephen went to Hiestand’s home to pick up a rifle and ammunition before calling Briar early Sunday to invite him to spend time together. The women then picked up Briar up at his home and drove him to a bridge where Hiestand shot him once, the affidavit states.

Stephen and Hiestand are the head coach and assistant coach, respectively, of Fort Recovery (Ohio) High School’s softball team, The (Muncie) Star Press reported. Both were placed on administrative leave from their coaching positions following their arrests.

IN BRIEF

Indiana panel backs higher fines for underaged tobacco sales

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The push to toughen Indiana’s penalties on stores for selling tobacco products to underage customers is facing some questions over whether the proposed fines are too steep.

Members of state Senate’s health committee voted 11-0 on Wednesday to endorse the bill that includes raising the minimum age for smoking and vaping from 18 to 21 to conform with the new federal law.

State Health Commissioner Kristina Box told committee members that 95 percent of smokers started before they were 21 and that vaping among teenagers is a growing public health problem. Box said raising the smoking age and tougher penalties on retailers was the “logical next step” to help prevent more people from picking up habits.

The Senate proposal would triple possible retailer fines to between \$600 and \$3,000 based on number of violations in a six-month period. Some committee members questioned raising the fines so much, so those might be lowered when the full Senate takes up the bill.

Nick Torres, a leader of the Tobacco Free Indiana coalition, said state excise police

are only conducting spot checks once a year at most stores and encouraged a longer period for those fines to escalate.

“The penalties are not having much effect on the bad actors who are continuing to sell these products,” Torres said.

A House committee approved a similar bill last week that is awaiting action by the full House.

Man who is Indiana’s oldest state employee retiring at 102

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A 102-year-old man who is Indiana’s oldest state employee is retiring after nearly six decades on the job, saying that “your body tells you when it’s time to go.”

Bob Vollmer plans to report to work for the last time Feb. 6 as a surveyor for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The southern Indiana man, whose mother lived to be 108, joined the state agency in 1962.

The World War II veteran still travels Indiana collecting technical field data and confirming boundary lines for DNR-managed properties, but he said that his body finally is telling him it’s time to retire.

“I guess your body tells you when it’s time to go,” Vollmer told WXIN-TV. “Doctors tell

me that’s one reason I’m still going. I got good lungs.”

Vollmer said he plans to spend his retirement devoting himself to reading and farming. He also plans to take trips to some of the South Pacific islands he was on during his wartime service with the U.S. Navy.

Vollmer enlisted in the Navy after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, according to a state announcement in 2016, when Gov. Eric Holcomb awarded him a Sagamore of the Wabash — one of Indiana’s highest honors.

After the war, Vollmer graduated from Purdue University with a degree in biological and agricultural engineering in 1952. He then worked for the Wabash Valley Association on reservoir and flood control projects before coming to work for the DNR.

During his DNR career, the tools of the surveying trade evolved from paper and pencil to high-tech gear such as a handheld GPS device.

Vollmer said that spending time on ships during World War II provided inspiration for his later career with the DNR.

“One of the officers got on a bridge with a sextant, and a wristwatch,” he said, adding that the officer was charting their position. “Of course later on I just realized that’s part of surveying.”

CANDIDATES

Continued from A1

currently held by Republican Rep. Jackie Walorski.

Russell (Russ) Reahard, Republican filed Jan. 8 for State Representative for District 18, Chester 3 Republican Precinct Committeeman and Wabash County Republican Convention Delegate. Chad Harris, Democrat, also filed Jan. 9 for State Representative for the District 18 seat.

Donald J. Rose, Democrat, filed Jan. 8 for Wabash County Democratic Convention Delegate.

Local candidates filed

In response to a Plain Dealer request, Teresa Ehret, deputy of elections and voter registration for the

Wabash County Clerk’s office stated as of Wednesday morning the following candidates had filed their paperwork:

■ Benjamin D. R. Vanderpool, Republican, filed Jan. 9 for Judge of the Wabash Superior Court.

■ Marcie J. Shepherd, Republican, filed Jan. 9 for Wabash County Auditor.

■ Luann Layman, Republican, filed Jan. 8 for Wabash County Treasurer.

■ Cheri Slee, Republican, filed Jan. 8 for Wabash County Surveyor.

■ Brian K. Hauptert, Republican, filed Jan. 8 for Wabash County Commissioner, District 3.

■ Matt Dillon, Republican, filed Jan. 9 for Wabash County Council, Noble 11 Republican Precinct Committeeman and Wabash County Republican Convention Delegate.

■ Barbara Pearson, Republican, filed Jan. 9 for Wabash County Republican Convention Delegate and Paw Paw Republican Precinct Committeeman.

■ David G. Roe, Republican, filed Jan. 14 for Wabash County Republican Convention Delegate.

■ Nanceylon (Nan) Roe, Republican, filed Jan. 14 for Wabash County Republican Convention Delegate.

■ Barbara J. Amiss, Republican, filed Jan. 9 for Chester 6 Republican Precinct Committeeman.

■ Ken Crace, Republican, filed Jan. 15 for State Convention Delegate.

Lawsuit against Ind. university given class action status

BLOOMINGTON (AP) — A judge has granted class-action status to a lawsuit alleging an Indiana university breached its contract by provided substandard living assignments to thousands of students staying in residential halls where mold was found.

Monroe Circuit Court Judge Holly Harvey’s Monday ruling comes as Indiana University’s residence centers Foster and McNutt are being renovated, where mold was a problem during the 2018-19 school year.

Those projects made more than 2,000 beds unavailable at the residence halls forcing students to live off campus. The renovations, which were originally set to take place throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, are expected to be completed

by the start of the fall 2020 semester.

Despite efforts to clean up the mold, university officials agreed that only a full-scale renovation of the residence centers would eliminate it, The Herald Times reported.

So far, the project has progressed exceptionally well, said Tom Morrison, IU’s vice president for capital planning and facilities.

Plaintiffs are seeking to recover damages, but a dollar amount has not yet been determined, said Richard Shevitz, an attorney representing the students.

But the university has provided millions of dollars to students affected by mold issues as part of a reimbursement plan. Michael McRobbie, IU President, announced the proposal in 2018. He also apologized.

The university’s Office of Insurance, Loss Control & Claims has provided \$251,662.26 in reimbursements to students, according to an email from IU spokesman Chuck Carney. That money was used to help cover medical bills, replacement of personal property, laundry and relocation expenses.

The university also put \$3,000 in the bursar accounts of each student living in the two residential halls, which came out to a total of \$7,374,000, according to Carney’s email.

To address concerns about the breakout of mold on student’s academic performance, faculty were instructed to make accommodations, particularly in regard to assignments and exams.

•••••

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Norse fall to ranked Spartans

The Class A No. 13 Norse fell on the road Class 4A No. 3 Homestead on Tuesday, 77-41. Addi Baker finished with 13 points. Addy Rosen had 11 points and Kearston Stout finished with eight.

Cardinals star WR Fitzgerald returning for 2020 season

TEMPE, Arizona (AP) — Cardinals star wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald is coming back to the team for the 2020 season.

There was speculation the 36-year-old Fitzgerald might retire, but the team announced Wednesday he has signed a one-year contract.

In 16 seasons with Arizona, Fitzgerald is the Cardinals' franchise leader in games played (250), receptions (1,378), receiving yards (17,083), receiving touchdowns (120), total touchdowns (120) and 100-yard games (49). His 1,378 career receptions are the most by any player in NFL history with a single team.

He ranks second all time behind Hall of Famer Jerry Rice (1,549). Fitzgerald's 17,083 career receiving yards also rank second in NFL history, while his 120 career touchdown receptions are sixth.

Panthers LB Kuechly retiring after 8 seasons in NFL

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Carolina Panthers linebacker Luke Kuechly is retiring from the NFL after eight seasons.

The 28-year-old Kuechly made the surprising announcement Tuesday night in a video posted on the team's website. He said, "I think now is the right chance to move on."

Kuechly was selected to seven Pro Bowls and was a first-team All-Pro five times. However, he suffered three concussions during his career, which may have led to his decision.

Submit your news

The Plain Dealer is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants. Reports must be received by 3:00 p.m. to make it in the following day's edition. Items may be:

E-mailed to sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail.

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Knights rally to knock off Eagles on road

Rich, Barley connect on late threes to cap off comeback

BY JACOB RUDE
sports@wabashplaindealer.com

CONVERSE - Southwood head coach John Burrus had grown tired of giving post-game talks about moral victories to his side. A fourth-quarter rally on the road against rivals Oak Hill ensured a different type of post-game atmosphere on Tuesday.

The Knights canned six three-pointers in the final period and overcame a six-point deficit to win their first regular season game against the Eagles since 2010, 62-59.

"We scored 11 two-point field goals and won at Oak Hill," Burrus said. "That is shocking that we were able to have that few of twos and still win. But, you know, you hit 10 threes, that really changes things. And a lot of them were at key points of the game."

"Before we played Wabash, we had a talk about being intense the whole game. I think that really is paying off, that these guys are sticking with it. Oak Hill, they're always tough at home. They've been tough for us to beat. We fill really good finding a way to beat them. Coach Renbarger, he's one of the toughest coaches to go against just the way he always has his kids prepared to play."

Trailing 56-54 late in the fourth, Logan Barley connected on a three-pointer on the left wing to give Southwood a one-point lead with 1:15 left. On the other end, Tristen Hayes would corral a



LAYUP: Southwood's Jackson Simons finishes a fastbreak layup during the first quarter of Tuesday's game at Oak Hill.

JACOB RUDE/Plain Dealer

See KNIGHTS / Page B2

Apaches hang on for win in sloppy effort

BY ERIC HINDERLITER
ctreporter@indy.rr.com

Given the situation, Wabash girls' basketball coach Matt Stone was grateful for his squad coming away with a victory Tuesday night at Eastbrook. In a mistake-filled game on both sides, the Apaches battled to a hard-earned 44-34 win over the Panthers.

"It's not often that you get a win when you commit 24 turnovers," said Stone.

The pesky Panthers kept hanging around throughout the game thanks in large part to Johwen McKim's 23-point effort.

"McKim played a great game," praised Stone.

McKim hit eight of her 22 shots from the field while connecting four times from 3-point range.

"We have to find more than Jo," remarked Eastbrook coach Jeff Liddick. "We have to have more people step up and give her more support."

McKim scored nine points in the third quarter, a quarter in which the Panthers looked like they might be figuring out their offensive woes. The fourth quarter saw Wabash pack their defense in tight in the paint preventing McKim from getting inside.

"We had to settle for more outside shots instead of attacking the basket," Liddick said of the fourth quarter. He also noted that McKim played all but two minutes of the game with a little bit of fatigue setting in during the later stages of the game.

Stone praised his bigs, Alivia Short and Mariah Wyatt, who both reached double figures in scoring. Short led the way with 19 points and stepped up in the fourth quarter with six points, and an assist to Wyatt.

"Alivia played really well," said Stone. "Our offense is built around those two (Short and Wyatt) and they did a good job tonight."

Wyatt scored 11 points while leading the Apaches with 11 rebounds. "We try hard to get those two the ball," said Stone. "That's what we do."

Eastbrook, in a season-long theme, struggled on the offensive end, hitting 24.4 percent from the field on 11-of-45 shooting.

"It's been our Achilles' heel all season long," said Liddick. "We were very inconsistent executing offensively."

But, despite the shooting woes, especially in the first half, the Panthers remained in the game down just 15-12 at the half.

"I thought shooting that bad that if we can just fix a couple of things we could still win this thing," noted Liddick.

The Apache lead remained at three headed into the final quarter until Short and Wyatt took things into their own hands. Libby Mattern hit a key three-pointer early in the fourth to put the lead at nine, and she finished the game with 11 points.

Eastbrook, now 7-9 on the season, travels to Oak Hill on Saturday. Wabash moves to 9-8 and heads to Manchester on Saturday.

MLB

To stop sign stealing, MLB could fight tech with more tech

BY DAVID BRANDT
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX — If Major League Baseball really wants to stop its teams from electronically stealing signs, it might consider fighting technology with more technology.

In a sport that's increasingly driven by analytics and advancements, the majority of signs between players and coaches are still transmitted by low-tech hand signals that have been used for decades. Those hand signals are easily captured by the loads of video equipment around MLB stadiums that are used for television, replays and all kinds of stat tracking.

All that technology can be — and obviously has been — used for cheating.

The Houston Astros were hit with stiff punishment on Monday after an MLB investigation found the team used electronics to steal signs during the franchise's run to the 2017 World Series title and again in the 2018 season. Manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were suspended for a season and then fired by Astros owner Jim Crane.

Boston manager Alex Cora was fired on Tuesday for his involvement with the

Astros' scheme and a separate ongoing investigation that involves the Red Sox.

Considering those developments, it might be wise to save players and coaches from themselves.

A partial model is already in place: The NCAA's Southeastern Conference has used electronic communication between coaches and catchers during league games for the past two seasons, which allows the coach to talk strategy with the catcher through an earpiece. It's much like the NFL, where an offensive coach tells plays to a quarterback.

No hand signals needed.

"I don't know why everyone isn't doing it — it's fantastic," LSU coach Paul Mainieri said. "It allows the coach to speak directly to the catcher and speeds up the game."

In the SEC's system, the catcher still has to relay signs to the pitcher the old-fashioned way with hand signals, but Mainieri said there's no reason why pitchers couldn't eventually be included in the conversation. It's more common for coaches to call pitches in college, while catchers usually handle those responsibilities in the big leagues.

NASCAR

NASCAR to run Xfinity race on Indy road course for 1st time

BY MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Roger Penske already is making changes at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

It looks like more are on the way, too.

On Wednesday, in his first major move since buying the iconic facility, Penske announced the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Indy on July 4 will use the track's road course. The Cup Series race, the Brickyard 400 scheduled for July 5, will remain on the track's 2 1/2-mile oval.

"Sitting down with the NASCAR team and our team, we said what can we do to make this Brickyard weekend different?" Penske explained just nine days after officially closing on the track purchase. "We want our fans to look at this and see if this something they want so we can grow this in the future. And it's going to put on some great racing."

Attendance for NASCAR races has been a particular concern at IMS since the 2008 Cup race, which turned into a series of 10-lap shootouts followed by competition cautions because of tire wear. Speedway President Doug Boles and the previous track ownership, the Hulman-George family, tried just about everything to win back fans.

They added sports car races. They moved the Xfinity Series race to the speedway. They improved the entertainment lineup with big-name bands. They changed the dates of the race and even debated running at night.

The stands remained more than half-empty on race day.

So after purchasing the track, Penske selected one of the few options still open for debate — using the road course.

"I'd like a little redemption on the oval," said driver Justin Allgaier, who finished second in last year's Xfinity race. "But on the flip side of it, this opportunity really, really is exciting to me. To switch to a race course that I think fits our cars very well, I believe in my mind there's going to be some great passing zones and the ability to put on a great race."

Matt DiBenedetto will test two potential courses next Wednesday. A tire

See NASCAR, Page B2

See MLB / Page B2

SCOREBOARD

NFL

Divisional Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 11

San Francisco 27, Minnesota 10

Tennessee 28, Baltimore 12

Sunday, Jan. 12

Kansas City 51, Houston 31

Green Bay 28, Seattle 23

Conference Championships

Sunday, Jan. 19

Tennessee at Kansas City, 3:05 p.m. (CBS)

Green Bay at San Francisco, 6:40 p.m. (FOX)

Pro Bowl

Sunday, Jan. 26

At Orlando, Fla.

AFC vs. NFC, 3 p.m. (ESPN)

Super Bowl

Sunday, Feb. 2

NFC champion vs. AFC champion, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

NFL All-Rookie Team

Offense

QB — Kyler Murray, Arizona Cardinals

RB — Josh Jacobs, Oakland Raiders; Miles Sanders, Philadelphia Eagles

WR — A.J. Brown, Tennessee Titans; Terry McLaurin, Washington Redskins

TE — Noah Fant, Denver Broncos

C — Erik McCoy, New Orleans Saints

G — Elgton Jenkins, Green Bay Packers; Dalton Risner, Denver Broncos

T — Tytus Howard, Houston Texans; Jawaan Taylor, Jacksonville Jaguars

Defense

DL — Josh Allen, Jacksonville Jaguars; Nick Bosa, San Francisco 49ers; Dexter Lawrence, New York Giants; Ed Oliver, Buffalo Bills

LB — Devin Bush, Pittsburgh Steelers; Dre Greenlaw, San Francisco 49ers; Devin White, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

CB — Chauncey Gardner-Johnson, New Orleans Saints; Sean Murphy-Bunting, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

S — Darnell Savage, Green Bay Packers; Juan Thornhill, Kansas City Chiefs

Special Teams

PK — Austin Seibert, Cleveland Browns

P — Jamie Gillan, Cleveland Browns

KR — Mecole Hardman, Kansas City Chiefs

PR — Deonte Harris, New Orleans Saints

ST — Drue Tranquill, Los Angeles Chargers

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Championship Winners

College Football Championship

Jan. 13, 2020 — LSU 42, Clemson 25

Jan. 7, 2019 — Clemson 44, Alabama 16

Jan. 8, 2018 — Alabama 26, Georgia 23, OT

Jan. 9, 2017 — Clemson 35, Alabama 31

Jan. 11, 2016 — Alabama 45, Clemson 40

Jan. 12, 2015 — Ohio St. 42, Oregon 20

BCS National Championship

Jan. 6, 2014 — Florida St. 34, Auburn 31

Jan. 7, 2013 — Alabama 42, Notre Dame 14

Jan. 9, 2012 — Alabama 21, LSU 0

Jan. 10, 2011 — Auburn 22, Oregon 19

Jan. 7, 2010 — Alabama 37, Texas 21

Jan. 8, 2009 — Florida 24, Oklahoma 14

Jan. 7, 2008 — LSU 38, Ohio State 24

Jan. 8, 2007 — Florida 41, Ohio State 14

BCS Championship

Jan. 4, 2006 Rose Bowl — Texas 41, Southern Cal-x 38

Jan. 1, 2005 Orange Bowl — Southern Cal-x 55, Oklahoma 19

Jan. 4, 2004 Sugar Bowl — LSU 21, Oklahoma 14

Jan. 3, 2003 Fiesta Bowl — Ohio St. 31, Miami 24, 2OT

Jan. 3, 2002 Rose Bowl — Miami 37, Nebraska 14

Jan. 3, 2001 Orange Bowl — Oklahoma 13, Florida St. 2

Jan. 4, 2000 Sugar Bowl — Florida St. 46, Virginia Tech 29

Jan. 4, 1999 Fiesta Bowl — Tennessee 23, Florida St. 16

x-participation vacated

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men's Standings

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

Conference

All Games

W

L

Pct

W

L

Pct

Michigan St.

5

1

.833

13

4

.765

Illinois

4

2

.667

12

5

.706

Wisconsin

4

2

.667

11

6

.647

Indiana

3

2

.600

13

3

.813

Rutgers

3

2

.600

12

4

.750

Maryland

3

3

.500

13

4

.765

Iowa

3

3

.500

12

5

.706

Purdue

3

3

.500

10

7

.588

Minnesota

3

3

.500

9

7

.563

Penn St.

2

3

.400

12

4

.750

Michigan

2

3

.400

11

5

.688

Ohio St.

2

4

.333

12

5

.706

Nebraska

2

4

.333

7

10

.412

Northwestern

1

5

.167

6

10

.375

Tuesday's Games

Ohio St. 80, Nebraska 68

Iowa 75, Northwestern 62

Wisconsin 56, Maryland 54

Wednesday's Games

Indiana at Rutgers

Penn St. at Minnesota

Friday's Games

Wisconsin at Michigan St., 7 p.m.

Michigan at Iowa, 9 p.m.

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

Conference

All Games

W

L

Pct

W

L

Pct

Duke

5

1

.833

15

2

.882

Louisville

5

1

.833

14

3

.824

Florida St.

4

1

.800

14

2

.875

Virginia Tech

4

2

.667

13

4

.765

Virginia

3

2

.600

11

4

.733

Boston College

3

2

.600

9

7

.563

Clemson

3

3

.500

9

7

.563

Georgia Tech

3

3

.500

8

5

.500

NC State

2

3

.400

11

5

.688

Miami

2

3

.400

10

5

.667

Syracuse

2

3

.400

9

7

.563

Pittsburgh

2

4

.333

11

6

.647

Notre Dame

1

4

.200

10

6

.625

North Carolina

1

4

.200

8

5

.500

Wake Forest

1

5

.167

8

5

.500

Tuesday's Games

Clemson 79, Duke 72

Louisville 73, Pittsburgh 68, OT

Virginia Tech 80, Wake Forest 70

Wednesday's Games

Boston College at Syracuse

Virginia at Florida St.

Miami at NC State

Notre Dame at Georgia Tech

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W

L

Pct

GB

Boston

27

11

.711

—

Toronto

25

14

.641

2½

Philadelphia

25

16

.610

3½

Brooklyn

18

21

.462

9½

New York

11

30

.268

17½

Southeast Division

W

L

Pct

GB

Miami

27

12

.692

—

Orlando

19

21

.475

8½

Charlotte

15

28

.349

14

Washington

13

26

.333

14

Atlanta

9

32

.220

19

Central Division

W

L

Pct

GB

Milwaukee

36

6

.857

—

Indiana

25

15

.625

10

Chicago

14

27

.341

21½

Detroit

14

27

.341

21½

Cleveland

12

29

.293

23½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

W

L

Pct

GB

Houston

26

13

.667

—

Dallas

25

15

.625

1½

Memphis

19

22

.463

8

San Antonio

17

21

.447

8½

New Orleans

15

26

.366

12

Northwest Division

W

L

Pct

GB

Utah

28

12

.700

—

Denver

27

12

.692

½

Oklahoma City

23

17

.575

5

Portland

17

24

.415

11½

Minnesota

15

24

.385

12½

Pacific Division

W

L

Pct

GB

L.A. Lakers

33

7

.825

—

L.A. Clippers

28

13

.683

5½

Phoenix

16

24

.400

17

Sacramento

15

25

.375

18

Golden State

9

33

.214

25

Tuesday's Games

Atlanta 110, Phoenix 107

Utah 118, Brooklyn 107

Memphis 121, Houston 110

Milwaukee 128, New York 102

L.A. Clippers 128, Cleveland 103

Dallas 124, Golden State 97

Wednesday's Games

Brooklyn at Philadelphia

Detroit at Boston

San Antonio at Miami

NFL

Ex-NFL player Gleason honored by Congress for ALS work

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former NFL player Steve Gleason has received the Congressional Gold Medal — the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress — for his work as an advocate for people with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

“This award represents the people of the United States of America and is a sublime honor for me,” Gleason, who no longer can speak on his own, said through a computer-generated voice. “It represents some joy, some encour-

agement and some triumphs for the tens of thousands of families living with ALS and others living with disabilities or experiencing anguish, tragedy or adversity.”

Gleason thanked his family for their support since his diagnosis, noting to his wife, Michel, “This is not the life we imagined and it hasn’t been easy.”

Gleason also said it’s his children, son, Rivers, and daughter, Gray, who “give me purpose.”

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi opened the ceremony.

“We have come to honor a true American hero ... who has transformed the lives of so many people living with ALS,” Pelosi said. “You bring pride to our nation.”

Saints quarterback Drew Brees and his son, Baylen; Saints owner Gayle Benson; NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell; and former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue were among those in attendance.

The 42-year-old Gleason was diagnosed with ALS in 2011. He has since spearheaded efforts through the

Team Gleason foundation to develop and provide technology to help ALS patients live longer, more fulfilling lives. Those include devices that track eye movements to help people who are paralyzed type words that can be transformed into speech. Gleason has used the technology to communicate, post messages on social media, address lawmakers from around the world and give motivational speeches to athletes.

Congress in 2018 year approved the Gleason Act, which provided funding to

help ALS patients get those devices.

“In the ALS community, he is a rock star, he gives hope,” said U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy, a Republican from Louisiana and a doctor who helped sponsor the legislation to honor Gleason. “Through his example of how he lives, he has changed life for us all. Thank you for inspiring hope even in the face of extreme adversity. Thank you for being a hero.”

Gleason played in 83 games for New Orleans between the 2000 and 2006 sea-

sons, emerging as a special teams leader and blocking four punts. His final block occurred against Atlanta on Sept. 26, 2006, the night the Superdome re-opened for the first time since it was heavily damaged while serving as a shelter of last resort for thousands who’d remained in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina struck nearly 13 months earlier.

The play has been memorialized by a bronze statue entitled “Rebirth,” on a public plaza surrounding the Superdome.

NFL

Mathieu, Clark turn gambles by Chiefs into wise investments

BY DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Tyrann Mathieu and Frank Clark were watching the AFC championship game on television a year ago, their teams knocked out of the playoffs, never thinking for a moment what the following 12 months might bring them.

Or more accurately, where it might bring them.

But after the Chiefs watched their defense fold in overtime against the Patriots, costing them a chance to reach the Super Bowl for the first time in nearly five decades, coach Andy Reid embarked on a massive overhaul of the unit. He replaced longtime coordinator Bob Sutton with Steve Spagnuolo, jettisoned aging and unproductive players, then asked general manager Brett Veach to bring in some legitimate playmakers to better fit their new scheme.

That’s how Mathieu and Clark wound up in Kansas City.

The Chiefs signed the ball-hawking safety to a \$42 million, three-year deal to bring his talent and swagger to the back end of their defense. A month later, they traded a package of draft picks to the Seahawks for Clark, then signed him to a \$105.5 million, five-year contract before the bruising pass rusher had even played a down for them.

Now, the pair not only re-

side in Kansas City, they’re playing for an AFC championship there.

“A great opportunity to play in Kansas City and in front of the world,” Mathieu said Wednesday, before their first practice to prepare for Sunday’s game against Tennessee. “To be on this stage is everything you work for, especially myself, being in my seventh year, going through what I’ve gone through in my career. To be in this position is a blessing.”

Mathieu is making more money per year than in any other season of his career, and Clark is now among the highest-paid defensive players in the league, yet they both seem like wise investments for a club with a lousy history of big contracts.

Eric Berry never lived up to the \$78 million, six-year deal the safety signed in 2017, playing three games total over the next two seasons due to injuries. Justin Houston appeared in only 32 games over three seasons after signing a \$101 million, six-year contract in 2015, at the time the second richest for a defensive player in NFL history. Wide receiver Dwayne Bowe had 117 catches but just five touchdowns in two seasons after his \$56 million, five-year contract in 2013, and quarterback Matt Cassel went a mere 19-28 in four years as the starter after his \$63 million, six-year deal in 2009.

No wonder the Chiefs are

so happy with the production Mathieu and Clark have provided.

Yet their road to Kansas City — and all those riches — was fraught with obstacles.

Mathieu was a standout safety at LSU before a series of drug arrests torpedoed his college career. At one point, after an arrest in 2012, he told an Arizona television station that he contemplated suicide. And when Mathieu got his life in order, and the Cardinals had taken a chance on him, injuries threatened his professional career.

He turned that around, too. Mathieu helped the Texans reach the playoffs last season, then landed his contract in Kansas City, where he immediately became the go-to leader not only of the secondary but the entire Chiefs defense.

“That’s who he is,” quarterback Patrick Mahomes said. “He doesn’t have to be anything other than himself. He goes out there every single day and just by his attitude, his mindset, he’s leading other guys. His play speaks for itself, but the way he’s every single day able to be great, it spreads through the team.”

Clark has a remarkably similar story in finding his way to Kansas City.

He also was kicked off his college team, though Michigan did so following a domestic violence incident. And when Seattle gave

him a chance, Clark avoided drama until an ugly social media incident involving a female TV reporter.

The Chiefs insist they did their due diligence before trading for him, though, and Clark has steered clear of trouble while helping Mathieu steer their revamped defense deep into the post-season. Clark had three sacks of Deshaun Watson in their comeback win over Houston last week, including one in which he whiffed twice and ran about 40 yards before he finally brought down the Texans quarterback from behind.

“He’s relentless. That one sack kind of tells you the whole story,” Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. “He was running around chasing him, missed him twice, got back up and sacked him. That’s how he is wired.”

That’s how Mathieu and Clark are both wired. It’s a big reason they have bucked the NFL trend — so far — by living up to their massive contracts, and in doing so, helping the Chiefs return to the AFC championship game.

This time, they won’t be watching it on TV.

“It’s awesome,” Clark said, “but our goal isn’t just to make it there, it’s to win it all. It’s one game at a time. But it would feel good to go ahead and bring home that trophy, the AFC championship trophy — that would mean the world to us.”

MLB

Cora remorseful as Red Sox begin search for new manager

BY JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox need to find a new manager, and it sounds like they haven’t gotten over their old one.

Heaping praise on Alex Cora a day after showing him the door, Red Sox owner John Henry said on Wednesday the team was going to miss “just about everything” about the man who led Boston to the 2018 World Series title only to be torpedoed in a cheating scandal.

“It was a sad day because we all have such respect for Alex,” said chairman Tom Werner, who was one of several Red Sox officials keeping in touch with the deposed manager since his departure. “He admitted that what he did was wrong, but that doesn’t mitigate, in our opinion, the extraordinary talent that he has. And we continue to be very fond of Alex.”

A player on Boston’s 2007 World Series-winning team who led the club to another title in his first year as a rookie manager, Cora was ousted on Tuesday, a day after baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred identified him as the ringleader in a sign-stealing scheme when he was the bench coach for the 2017 Astros.

Major League Baseball is also looking into whether Cora installed a similar system in Boston after arriving

baseball.

“While it was difficult personally for a lot of people, (and) professionally, it was ultimately an easy decision for the Red Sox and for Alex,” Kennedy said. “Alex is an incredibly talented manager and accomplished great things with us. He expressed remorse. He apologized yesterday to us for the embarrassment that this caused.”

The decision leaves the Red Sox, who went 84-78 and missed the playoffs last year for the first time since 2015, without a manager and less than a month to find one before spring training. Chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom, who was hired in October, said he hadn’t had time yet to formulate a short list.

“The short answer is we don’t know yet,” Bloom said when asked about the current coaching staff. “Obviously, this just happened.”

Complicating the search for a replacement is that the Red Sox don’t know if anyone else will face sanctions from the commissioner. And with just a month before spring training other teams may be reluctant to grant permission to interview members of their staffs.

The Astros are also looking for a manager, and New York Mets manager Carlos Beltrán was also implicated in the cheating from his time in Houston.

“There’s no question it’s an unusual time to be doing a managerial search,” Bloom said, “Being this close to spring training, it’s impossible for that not to be a factor in how we proceed. But it’s not going to be the only factor. And we want to make sure we do this justice.”

Bloom said there will be internal candidates, along with ones from outside the organization. Among those who have been mentioned are Jason Varitek, the former catcher who is now a special assistant, and bench coach Ron Roenicke, who managed the Milwaukee Brewers from 2011-15.

NBA

Pelicans project Zion debut for Jan. 22

METAIRIE, La. (AP) — Zion Williamson, the top choice in last summer’s NBA draft, is scheduled to make his regular season debut for the Pelicans on Jan. 22 when New Orleans hosts the San Antonio Spurs, Pelicans basketball operations chief David Griffin said Wednesday.

“Everything’s moving in the right direction,” Griffin said. “I really believe very strongly he is a radically improved physical version of himself in way that frankly we took the extra time to ensure.”

The former Duke star has missed New Orleans’ first 41

games this season while rehabilitating from arthroscopic surgery to repair the lateral meniscus in his right knee. The timeline set for his return calls for him to miss three more games, starting with Thursday night’s home game against Utah.

New Orleans also hosts the Los Angeles Clippers on Saturday and visit Memphis on Monday.

Griffin also indicated that Williamson’s minutes will be closely monitored and likely limited for the time being.

“From a sustaining health standpoint, we’re certainly going to treat him differently,” Griffin said.

The Pelicans have gone 15-26 without Williamson, but have won nine of their last 13 to pull within four games of the final Western Conference playoff spot with half the season left.

The 6-foot-6, 285-pound Williamson is relatively heavy for an NBA player, never mind one who moves well and often soars above the rim for the kind of dunks that have made him an internet sensation since high school in Spartanburg, South Carolina. The purpose of his mid-October surgery was to repair cartilage that serves as natural padding in the knee joint. So the club has

taken a cautious approach to his rehabilitation in hopes of minimizing the possibility of a setback.

Williamson returned to practice on Jan. 2 and more recently has been seen dunking during Pelicans pre-game warm-up sessions.

Williamson played in four preseason games before his injury, averaging 23.3 points and 6.5 rebounds. He had surgery in mid-October.

He averaged 22.6 points per game at Duke during the 2018-19 season and also was voted to the ACC’s All-Defensive Team after averaging 8.9 rebounds, 2.12 steals and 1.8 blocked shots per game.

NFL

Rookie Nick Bosa makes big impact on improved 49ers defense

BY JOSH DUBOW
AP Pro Football Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Nick Bosa remained on the turf with the wind knocked out of him after beating yet another offensive lineman for a sack when the appreciative San Francisco 49ers fans started chanting his name.

Bosa hopped up, jogged off the field and then quickly got back to doing what he’s done for his entire rookie season by harassing quarterbacks and spoiling game plans for offenses around the league.

There are plenty of reasons for the remarkable turnaround in San Francisco that has the 49ers (14-3) ready to

host the Green Bay Packers (14-3) in the NFC championship game on Sunday after winning only 10 games in the first two seasons under coach Kyle Shanahan and general manager John Lynch.

There’s been a healthy season for quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, innovative play-calling from Shanahan, physical dominance from All-Pro tight end George Kittle and a throwback season from shutdown cornerback Richard Sherman.

But perhaps no one has had a bigger impact than Bosa, a rookie who already has the physical tools and techniques of a player far more experienced.

“It was kind of shocking how silly he was able to make a lot of talented tackles look early, myself included,” veteran left tackle Joe Staley said Wednesday. “Now it’s just who he is and is what we expect now.”

Bosa was born for this role as a disruptive defensive end. His father, John, was a first-round pick by Miami in 1987 who played three seasons in the NFL.

His older brother Joey was drafted third overall by the Chargers in 2016 before winning Defensive Rookie of the Year and recording 40 sacks in his first four seasons.

Nick Bosa was dominant as a rookie as well after be-

ing picked second overall last spring. His nine sacks were the fourth most ever for a 49ers rookie, and he ranked third in the NFL with 68 quarterback pressures, according to SportsInfo Solutions, trailing only Cameron Jordan and Danielle Hunter.

Bosa also has been disruptive against the run and even flashed the ability to play in pass coverage. He dropped off last week and broke up a pass to Minnesota’s Dalvin Cook.

“Obviously making the plays is good,” Bosa said. “But, I mean, I try and bring the same effort, same technique, same everything every week. (Sunday) I got a

couple sacks. That always helps. But most of the plays that I’m most proud of are the plays that weren’t the sacks.”

Bosa and the entire defensive line have been making plays all season. The four first-round draft picks the team spent on defensive linemen the past five seasons and the trade for another former first-rounder in Dee Ford are paying big dividends.

The Niners also made some schematic changes this season under new defensive line coach Kris Kocurek, lining up the defensive ends out wider than in the past to create better angles to get to the quarterback and more 1-on-

1 matchups.

It has worked as advertised as the 49ers increased their sack total in the regular season from 36 to 48 and went from a record-low seven takeaways to 27 in large part because of the improved pass rush.

“Once we got the pads on in training camp, it was very eye-opening,” quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo said about the upgraded line. “They made it difficult on us in training camp and it transferred over to the season, thankfully.”

The defensive line took a little step backward late in the season when Ford played only four snaps in the final six games because of injuries.

Man disabled as a teen is haunted by parents' inaction

DEAR ABBY: When I was a junior in high school, I sustained a neck injury (at school) that damaged my spinal cord. I recovered mostly from that, but I have residual weakness in my right side and severe neck pain. I was able to work until, at 57, I had to go on disability. Because of that, my financial situation is difficult, increasingly so now that my wife will be retiring.

Dear Abby



At the time of my injury, my parents didn't sue the school, although clearly the school was responsible. I was too young and certainly in no shape to address the situation.

A lawyer approached my parents at the time, and my physician stated my injuries would limit my long-term work abilities and drastically affect my life. My parents were aware that I would have limited work years, thus affecting my financial situation. I feel anger toward them because of their inaction regarding my injury and not suing the school.

I see them once or twice a week, and I'm wondering if I should bring this up to them now. They're in their mid-80s but are quite lively and take care of themselves. It consumes my thoughts each time I visit them, but I've said nothing. Do you think I should bring this up to them? — Injured In Tennessee

DEAR INJURED: Yes, I do. You deserve to know why they were so apathetic in taking care of your welfare — and they should be made aware of the impact it has had on your life. It may be too late to sue the school for what happened to you, but at least you will have some answers.

DEAR ABBY: I am suffering from postpartum depression while trying to reconcile with my husband, "Derek." He had several emotional affairs during my recent pregnancy, as well as after I gave birth.

His parents attacked me about the postpartum. I was hospitalized for a week because of it, but they said it was an act. Recently, his mom texted him saying he should use my mental illness as grounds to divorce me. I texted her, asking her to stop attacking me that way. She responded, calling me a devil, saying she's always hated me. Now she's turning his entire family against me, spreading vicious lies. She even accused me of trying to sleep with my father-in-law, which Derek knows is ridiculous.

I have asked Derek to address the situation, but what else can I do? I'm no longer comfortable around his parents or sending my children to be around them. I don't want Derek to be in an awkward position, but it's not fair for me to be attacked with malicious lies because of her jealousy — especially 12 years in. Please help. — Disrespected In Illinois

DEAR DISRESPECTED: You may be suffering from postpartum, but your mother-in-law appears to have more problems than you do. I don't envy you for being her target, or your husband for having to buffer you.

It might be helpful if the two of you consult a licensed mental health provider to figure out how to deal with her, if that's possible. And Derek should waste no time letting the rest of the family know that none of what his mother is saying is true.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Gem surface
- 6 Load-hoisting device
- 11 Toughen by exposure
- 12 Ballpark event
- 13 Temperament
- 15 Spice rack item
- 16 Baby food
- 18 Galleon cargo
- 19 Casino action
- 21 Assistance
- 22 Ration out
- 23 — St. Laurent
- 25 Call out
- 28 Shake off
- 30 Mind reader's letters
- 31 Tend the garden
- 32 Grassy surface
- 33 "Gal" of song
- 35 Roughly
- 37 Dazzle
- 38 Perched

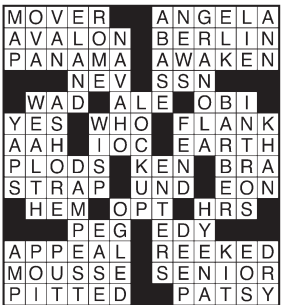
40—

- spumante
- 41 Grass skirt go-with
- 42 Like some hours
- 43 Shaggy-haired ox
- 46 Stock holder
- 48 Did not cook (2 wds.)
- 50 Mystery
- 54 Bounded along
- 55 Use a prayer rug
- 56 Kuwaiti leaders
- 57 Insurance worker

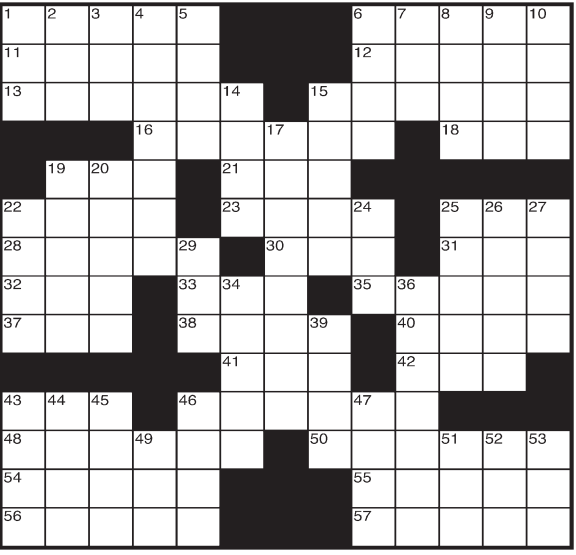
DOWN

- 1 Shark feature
- 2 Collection of tales
- 3 Snip off
- 4 Released violently
- 5 Prefix for "trillion"
- 6 Sidekick
- 7 Undergo decomposition

Answer to Previous Puzzle



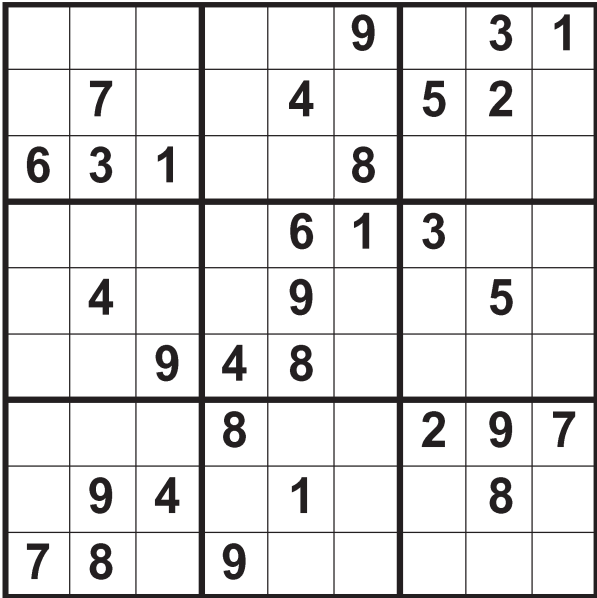
- 8 Combat material
- 9 "Faint heart — won ..."
- 10 Therefore
- 14 Auction site
- 15 Rubens models
- 17 More perky
- 19 Underneath
- 20 Recital piece
- 22 Butte
- 24 Health resort
- 25 Decided
- 26 Way to go
- 27 Himalayan legend
- 29 That senora
- 34 Ration
- 36 Weeping noisily
- 39 Become bored or weary
- 43 Sturdy lock
- 44 Minute quantity
- 45 Military cap
- 46 Cattle chews
- 47 Composer Paul —
- 49 Poet's contraction
- 51 Opposite of haw
- 52 Chess pieces
- 53 Cockpit fig.



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



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How to play:

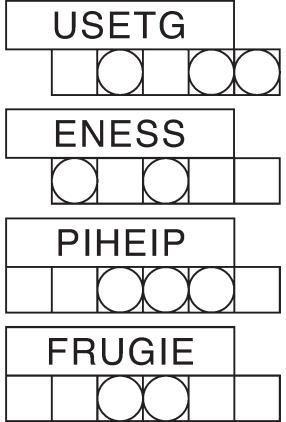
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

8	6	1	3	7	4	2	9	5
5	2	3	8	1	9	6	4	7
7	9	4	5	2	6	1	8	3
1	7	9	6	8	2	3	5	4
3	5	2	1	4	7	9	6	8
4	8	6	9	3	5	7	1	2
2	4	5	7	9	1	8	3	6
9	3	7	4	6	8	5	2	1
6	1	8	2	5	3	4	7	9

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



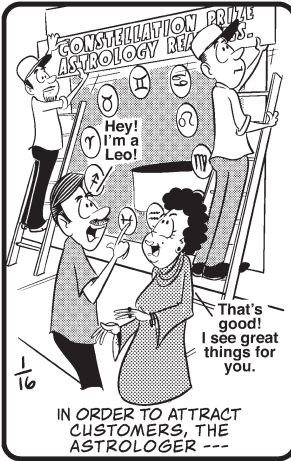
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Ans. here: ○○○○ ○○○○ ○○○○○○

Yesterday's Jumbles: DITTO GIZMO OFFEND LESSON Answer: She finally reached the par 5 in two shots after she — LONGED TO DO IT

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

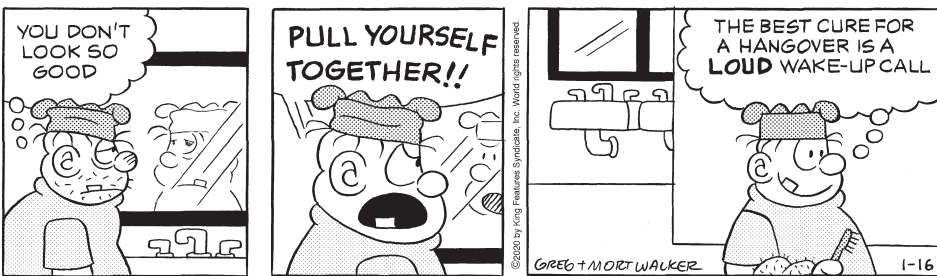
By Bil Keane



"See? I cloned her!"

©2020 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

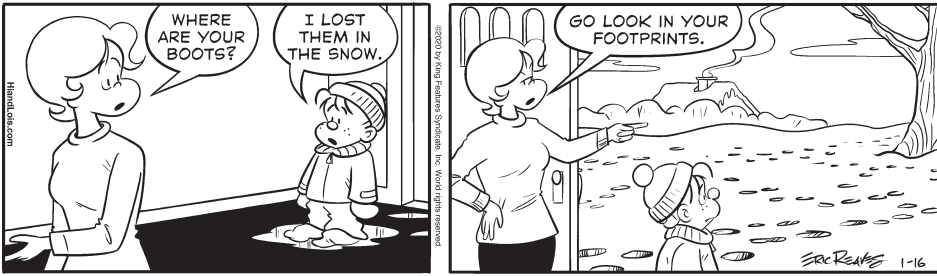
BEETLE BAILEY



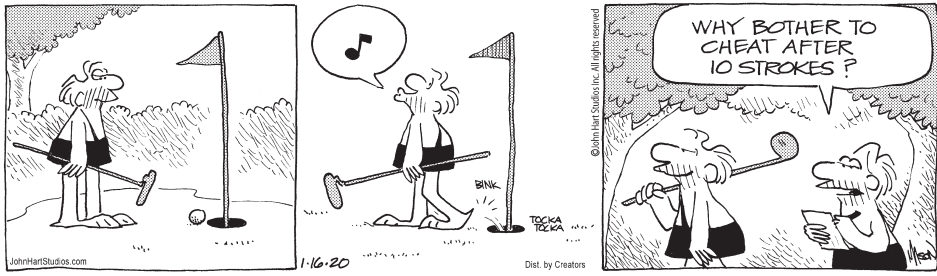
BLONDIE



HI & LOIS



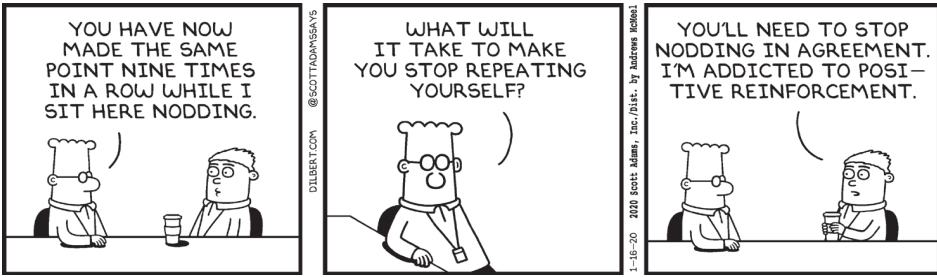
BC



WIZARD OF ID



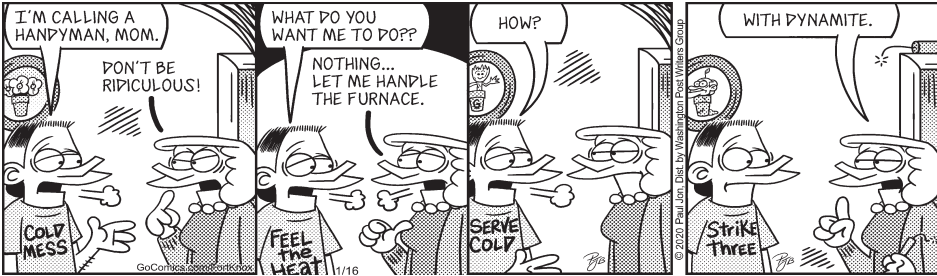
DILBERT



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



The Gospel not just for those who receive it

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: I have always believed that Jonah was a man of God; yet he was rebuked by God. Why is this? — J.W.

A: Preachers are not immune to God's chastening. The Bible says that "whom the Lord loves He [disciplines]" (Hebrews 12:6). This epic story reveals that before God could use Jonah, Jonah first had to humble himself and repent. Only then would God use him to preach the Gospel to a pagan culture.

Jonah is one who thought he could escape from the Lord — he found out differently. He was called to preach to rebellious Nineveh (the area today that is known as Mosul, Iraq), but instead he rebelled against God's call. This miraculous story proves that God's eyes are everywhere and that He devises retribution and punishment to bring about eternal blessing in response to repentance.

Jonah was called to preach God's Word, but in a very different way from other prophets who preached to Israel. Jonah resented the fact that God was sending him to the "great city" (Jonah 1:2), the capital of Israel's pagan neighbor, Assyria. He didn't believe the people of Nineveh deserved God's salvation. So he did the very thing he was called to preach against — he disobeyed God and did what was in his heart.

God reprimanded Jonah

and, in graciousness, expressed His pity and love for those wandering in an evil world drowning in sin. This is yet another demonstration of the long arm of God's salvation extended to those who turn from rebellion and receive the Lord's mighty message of forgiveness.

The Gospel is not just for those who receive it, but to bring the whole world to salvation. The Gospel shows us our sins and points us to the Savior. "The gospel ... is not according to man. ... It came through the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Galatians 1:11-12).

CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"D OLR'H IPH OPFWPNNPO. TAPR D XPPU VR VHHVGS, D TDHAOWVT. D ODNVFFPVW, D WPFUPRDNA VRO HAPR D GLJP YVGS." — RVLJD GVJFYPUU

Previous Solution: "I'm a lioness. I have four cubs. I'm a mom. I want to take care of my kids and protect them." — Heidi Klum

TODAY'S CLUE: J s n b e f X

Putin engineers shakeup that could keep him in power longer

BY VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin engineered a surprise shakeup of Russia’s leadership Wednesday, proposing changes to the constitution that could keep him in power well past the end of his term in 2024.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev resigned his post after Putin announced the proposed constitutional amendments. Putin kept his longtime ally in the Kremlin’s leadership structure, appointing him to the newly created post of deputy head of the presidential Security Council.

The shakeup sent shock waves through Russia’s political elites who were left pondering what Putin’s intentions were and speculating about future Cabinet appointments.

Putin’s proposed constitutional reforms, announced in a state of the nation address, indicated he was working to carve out a new governing position for himself after his term ends, although the suggested changes don’t immediately indicate what specific path he will take to stay in charge.

The 67-year-old former KGB operative, who has led Russia for more than 20 years, often keeps his intentions secret until the very last moment.

Alexei Navalny, the most prominent Russian opposition leader, tweeted that Putin’s speech clearly signaled his desire to continue calling the shots even after his term ends.

“The only goal of Putin and his regime is to stay in charge for life, having the entire country as his personal asset and seizing its riches for himself and his friends,” Navalny said.

The Kremlin later an-

nounced that Tax Service chief Mikhail Mishustin was nominated to replace Medvedev, who has been prime minister for nearly eight years. Approval by the Duma is virtually certain.

After Putin’s first two terms ended in 2008, Medvedev served as a placeholder president for just one term, from 2008 to 2012 and appointed his mentor as prime minister, although Putin continued to wield power. Under Medvedev, the constitution was amended to lengthen the president’s term from four years to six, although it limits the leader to two consecutive terms.

In televised comments Wednesday, Medvedev said he needed to resign in light of Putin’s proposed changes in government.

Putin suggested amending the constitution again to allow lawmakers to name prime ministers and Cabinet members. The president currently holds the authority to make those appointments.

“It will increase the role of parliament and parliamentary parties, powers and independence of the prime minister and all Cabinet members,” Putin told an audience of top officials and lawmakers.

At the same time, Putin argued that Russia would not remain stable if it were governed under a parliamentary system. The president should retain the right to dismiss the prime minister and Cabinet ministers, to name top defense and security officials, and to be in charge of the Russian military and law enforcement agencies, he said.

Putin emphasized that constitutional changes must be put to a nationwide vote.

Putin has been in power longer than any other Russian or Soviet leader since Josef

Stalin, who led from 1924 until his death in 1953. Under the current law, Putin must step down in 2024 after his term ends.

Observers speculated that Putin may stay in charge by shifting into the prime minister’s seat after increasing the powers of parliament and the Cabinet and trimming presidential authority.

Political analyst Dmitry Oreshkin said Putin’s speech made it clear he was pondering the move to premiership.

“Putin is advancing the idea of keeping his authority as a more powerful and influential prime minister while the presidency will become more decorative,” Oreshkin said.

In his address, Putin said the constitution must also specify the authority of the State Council consisting of regional governors and top federal officials.

Tatiana Stanovaya of the Carnegie Moscow Center said it appears as if Putin might try to continue pulling the strings as head of the council and could even shift into a new position before his term ends.

“It looks very much like Putin is preparing to leave the presidency, whether that will take place in 2024 or even earlier, and is currently trying to create a safety mechanism for his successor in case of con-flict,” she wrote on Facebook.

“Putin looks like he is counting on becoming the head of the State Council, which will get increased powers and become a key decision-making platform with input from the Presidential Administration, the government and the governors.”

Other possible options include a merger with neighboring Belarus that would create a new position of the head of a new unified state – a pros-

pect that has been rejected by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

Political analyst Kirill Rogov said that Putin intends to stay in charge while redistributing powers between various branches of government.

“Such a model resembling the Chinese one would allow Putin to stay at the helm indefinitely while encouraging rivalry between potential successors,” Rogov observed.

In 2017, Chinese leader Xi Jinping had term limits abolished, which would effectively keep him in power for life, although Putin appears to favor more intricate ways of staying in charge than abolishing term limits.

Although Putin continued calling the shots during Medvedev’s presidency, he wasn’t totally happy with all his actions. He was particularly critical of Medvedev’s decision to give the green light to the Western air campaign in Libya in 2011 that led to the ouster and killing of long-time dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

Medvedev’s decision to step down and let Putin return to the presidency also sparked massive protests in Moscow in 2011-2012 in a major challenge to the Kremlin. Some of Putin’s associates suspected Medvedev’s aides of encouraging the protests.

In his speech, Putin emphasized the need to amend the constitution to give it a clear priority over international law.

“The requirements of international law and treaties and decisions of international organs can only be valid on the territory of Russia as long as they don’t restrict human rights and freedoms and don’t contradict the constitution,” he said.

Video: 20 seconds of terror between missiles in Iran crash

BY JON GAMBRELL
and EMILY SCHMALL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran’s top diplomat acknowledged Wednesday that Iranians “were lied to” for days after the Islamic Republic accidentally shot down a Ukrainian jetliner. The admission came as new surveillance footage purported to show two surface-to-air missiles 20 seconds apart shredded the airplane and kill all 176 people aboard.

The downing of the Ukraine International Airlines flight last week came amid heightened tensions between Iran and the U.S. over its unraveling nuclear deal. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani for the first time Wednesday threatened Europe by warning its soldiers in the Mideast “could be in danger” over the crisis as Britain, France and Germany launched a measure that could see United Nations sanctions re-imposed on Tehran.

The crash – and subsequent days of Iranian denials that a missile had downed the airplane – has sparked angry protests in a country already on edge as its economy struggles under crushing American sanctions.

Tensions between Washington and Tehran reached a fever pitch two weeks ago with the American drone strike in Baghdad that killed the powerful Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani. The general had led Iranian proxy forces abroad, including those blame for deadly roadside bomb attacks on U.S. troops in Iraq.

Iran retaliated with a ballistic missile strike targeting Iraqi military bases housing U.S. forces early last Wednesday, just before Iran’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard shot down the Ukrainian airliner taking off from Tehran’s Imam Khomeini International Airport.

Airport for days afterward insisted a technical fault downed the 3½-year-old Boeing 737-800. It wasn’t until Western governments, including Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, went public with their suspicions the plane had been shot down that Iran admitted it fired on the plane.

Not admitting the plane had been shot down “was for the betterment of our country’s security, because if we had said this, our air defense system would have become crippled and our guys would have had doubted everything,” said Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of the Guard’s aerospace program, in television footage aired Wednesday.

Hajizadeh only days earlier apologized on state television and said: “I wish I were dead.”

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, speaking at a summit in New Delhi, became the first official to describe Iran’s earlier claims as a lie.

“In the last few nights, we’ve had people in the streets of Tehran demonstrating against the fact that they were lied to for a couple of days,” Zarif said. Zarif went onto praise

Iran’s military for being “brave enough to claim responsibility early on.”

However, he said that he and Rouhani only learned that a missile had downed the flight on Friday, raising new questions over how much power Iran’s civilian government has in its Shiite theocracy. The Guard knew immediately afterward its missile downed the airline.

The Guard is answerable only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who is expected to preside over Friday prayers in Iran for the first time in years over anger about the crash.

The new surveillance footage obtained by The Associated Press showing the missile fire was filmed off a monitor by a mobile phone. It appears to be taken near the town of Bidkaneh, northwest of Tehran’s Imam Khomeini International Airport.

The two minutes of black-and-white footage purportedly shows one missile streaking across the sky and exploding near the plane. Ten seconds later, another missile is fired. Some 20 seconds after the first explosion, another strikes near the plane. A ball of flames then falls from the sky out of frame.

The footage corresponds with AP reporting, appears genuine and matches geographic features of the area. The date in the upper right-hand corner of the video appears to correspond to Iran’s Persian calendar. It also explains how so many people filmed the shoot down: The first explosion drew their attention and their filming mobile phones to the predawn sky.

Amid all of this, Britain, France and Germany on Tuesday launched the so-called “dispute mechanism” pertaining to Iran’s 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Iran has been breaking limits of the accord for months in response to President Donald Trump’s decision to unilaterally withdraw America from the deal in May 2018.

After Soleimani’s killing, Iran announced it would no longer abide by any of the nuclear deal’s limits, which had been designed to keep Tehran from having enough material to be able to build an atomic bomb if it chose. However, Iran has said it will continue to allow the United Nations’ nuclear watchdog access to its nuclear sites.

Speaking before his Cabinet, Rouhani showed a rarely seen level of anger in wide-ranging remarks Wednesday that included the threat to Europe.

“Today, the American soldier is in danger, tomorrow the European soldier could be in danger,” Rouhani said. “We want you to leave this region but not with war. We want you to go wisely. It is to your own benefit.”

Rouhani did not elaborate.

European forces have been deployed alongside Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan. France also maintains a naval base in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, while Britain has opened a base in the island nation of Bahrain.

Documents suggest Thomas Markle may testify in Meghan suit

BY DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON — The estranged father of Meghan, Duchess of Sussex could be called to testify against the royals in her lawsuit against the Mail on Sunday newspaper, court papers reveal.

The prospect of a court battle is more bad news for a British royal family already shaken by Meghan and Prince Harry’s decision to drop out of full-time royal duties.

Meghan is suing the newspaper and its parent company, Associated Newspapers, for publishing a letter she wrote to her father, Thomas Markle. The civil lawsuit accuses the newspaper of copyright infringement, misuse of private information and violating the U.K.’s data protection law with the publication of the letter.

Documents filed at the High Court in London show the newspaper plans to rely on evidence from Markle, stating that he “had a weighty right to tell his version of what had happened between himself and his daughter, including the contents of the letter.”

Papers drawn up by lawyers for the newspaper argue that members of Britain’s royal family “generate and

rely on publicity about themselves and their lives in order to maintain the privileged positions they hold and to promote themselves, their fulfillment of their duties and functions, and the good causes they have espoused.”

“There is a huge and legitimate public interest in the royal family and the activities, conduct and standards of behavior of its members,” the filing said. “This extends not merely to their public conduct, but to their personal and family relationships because those are integral to the proper functioning of the monarchy.”

The paper also argues that the letter’s publication was in response to a “one-sided” article in People Magazine in February 2019 featuring an interview with five unnamed “close friends” of the duchess which referenced the letter, meaning its existence was in the public domain. It also drew attention to the duchess’s “immaculate” handwriting, which lawyers for the newspaper said was proof that she anticipated “it being disclosed to and read by third parties.”

Thomas Markle’s strained relationship with his daughter has complicated Meghan’s entry into the royal family.

Markle had been due to

walk Meghan down the aisle at her May 2018 wedding, but pulled out at the last minute, citing heart problems. The former television lighting director has given occasional interviews to the media, complaining in December 2018 that he’d been “ghosted” by his daughter after the wedding.

The documents came to light this week amid the firestorm of attention that followed Meghan and Prince Harry’s decision to issue a statement announcing that they wanted to step back from their royal roles, become financially independent and split their time between Britain and North America. Queen Elizabeth II convened a family summit on Monday at her Sandringham estate in eastern England and decided the couple could to live part time in Canada.

Meghan and Harry recently spent a six-week Christmas break on Vancouver Island, and Meghan lived in Toronto for several years while appearing in the TV show “Suits.”

Meghan was seen in Canada for the first time since the crisis began when she visited the Downtown Eastside Women’s Centre in Vancouver to discuss issues affecting women in one of the city’s

poorest neighborhoods. The shelter posted a photograph of the duchess’s visit this week.

The revelation that Thomas Markle would be prepared to testify against his daughter raises the unseemly and potentially explosive possibility of a courtroom showdown in which Meghan faces cross-examination about her dealings with the media. Other royals, such as Harry, might be called as witnesses.

Media attorney Mark Stephens told the BBC that the duchess would be forced to answer questions about how she might have tried to get her side of the story out to media outlets – however indirectly. The prospect of having her testify would send shivers through the royal family, as it would expose “how the sausage of news is made,” Stephens said.

“You really don’t want to see how that’s made, and you certainly would have to explain it in the witness box and that’s what Meghan is going to have to do,” Stephens said.

Analysts compared the case to the late Princess Diana’s lawsuit over photographs showing her exercising on gym equipment. The case was settled before it was to be heard.

Grrrrr! Angry herders secure bear ban from France’s Macron

BY JOHN LEICESTER
Associated Press

PARIS — The bears have cute names – Bubble, Feather, Snowflake and the like – and look so soft and huggable when caught on video by remote cameras that study their habits. But to herders high in the Pyrenees mountains of southwest France, the animals are stone-cold killers, ravaging flocks and undermining farming livelihoods.

Pyrenean livestock farmers who raise sheep for meat and famously pungent cheeses are rejoicing after getting an assurance from President Emmanuel Macron that he won’t authorize the release into the wild of any more of

the bears blamed for a surge in deadly attacks.

“He promised that the re-insertions (of bears) are finished, that he won’t release any more,” said Jean-Pierre Pommies, who raises sheep and cows. Pommies wore his broad farmer’s beret to Tuesday’s meeting with the suit-and-tied Macron in Pau, a Pyrenean town with sweeping views of the mountains.

“He was able to understand that it’s a big problem for us,” Pommies added. “We have reached the bottom, and the situation was ridiculous for Pyrenean herders.”

When France’s last pocket of brown bears appeared headed for extinction in the

Pyrenees in the 1990s, the country began importing animals from Slovenia, where the population is booming. A total of eight were freed into the wild in 1996, 1997 and 2006. Another release of two Slovenian female bears – Claverina and Sorita – followed in 2018, the first first full year of Macron’s presidency.

The population is now estimated at around 40 bears, doubling its size since 2010 and expanding swath of the mountains that form the border between France and Spain, stretching from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic.

Bear attacks on livestock

have grown, too. Having long been largely stable, mostly between 100 and 200 attacks per year across the Pyrenees, including Spain, France and Andorra, they surged to close to 400 in 2018, according to the most recent official annual report.

Herders who suffered included one of Pommies’ friends, whose flock was devastated in an attack last year, he said. The sheep took fright and plunged off a cliff together.

“There were 256 piled up at the bottom,” he said. “They had to finish some of them off with their knives. For us shepherds, that is traumatic.”

He believes the presence of

the predators is simply “in-compatible” with the Pyrenean mountain economy that rests largely on herding.

“I love bears. I’m passionate about them as animals. But I love that they live happily in Yellowstone, in Canada, in Romania and Slovenia,” he said. In the Pyrenees, “the people who are pro-bear say that it used to work for the old timers, that they used to deal with it. And that is completely false. History shows that men have always killed them.”

The Pyrenees are only one of the battlegrounds in Europe over efforts to preserve wild fauna and flora. In France’s other major

mountain range, the Alps, wild wolves that also prey on flocks are a persistent source of tension between herders and those opposed to the deployment of large dogs to keep wolf packs at bay.

In Germany, wolves have been a source of political friction. The far-right opposition Alternative for Germany party accused the government of failing to defend farmers’ interests against the 75 wolf packs counted there in 2018. There is also debate in Belgium about the reappearance of wolves after infrared cameras spotted a pair together in woods and a pregnant wolf was killed in northern Belgium last summer.

A cartoon illustration of a young boy with a friendly smile, wearing a striped shirt, standing behind a wooden lemonade stand. A sign above the stand reads 'LEMONADE'. The boy is holding a glass of lemonade in his right hand and a coin in his left hand, ready to make change. The stand has a small container for lemons hanging from it.

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